GERMAN TEEN KILLS 15 IN RAMPAGE, PG 14

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Canada pg 8

Man OK after plunge over Falls

Canadian Music Week

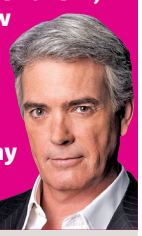
Metro hits all the right notes to keep you in tune with Canadian Music Week.

• Today

John Roberts talks about his induction into the Broadcast Industry Hall of Fame, pg 37

• Tomorrow

Metro talks to the Handsome Furs ahead of their Friday night gig at the Horseshoe Tavern, and a preview of the Independent Music Awards, which take place Saturday night.



Riding the Recession

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

• Food

Metro serves up local meals for a steal, pg 32

• Comment

Georgie Binks tackles love during a recession, pg 19

• Tomorrow

Movies – Some suggestions to take your mind off your own financial problems.

Frigid fundraiser **Students raise $4,000**

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fifty students and staff from Western Technical Commercial School run into Lake Ontario yesterday to raise money and awareness for the Free The Children Brick by Brick campaign. The class raised $4,000 for the program that builds schools in developing nations.

Jilted over java

Ontarians shortchanged in Tim's roll-up-the-rim contest

This time of year, Grace Hendrick routinely supplements her two-a-day French vanilla coffee habit, hoping each time she pries up the rim of her Tim Hortons cup that she'll hit the jackpot.

"I keep hoping I'll win something, maybe the car," said Hendrick. "But I rarely win. Sometimes a coffee. That's it."

What she didn't know is that, as an Ontarian, her chances of scoring one of the grand prizes — a $32,000 silver Toyota Venza — are less than those of Tim's customers in B.C. and Quebec.

According to the company's website, almost 281.7 million cups are issued for the popular contest, which runs in Canada and 11 American states.

Some 35 cups are distributed across Canada that, when unrolled, will get the buyer one of the Toyotas. But they're not distributed equally among the provinces.

While some 52 per cent of the roll-up-the-rim cups will be sold in Ontario, only 15 of the 35 car-winning cups — about 43 per cent — will be sold here. If they were distributed according to overall cup sales, the province should get 18 cars, three more than it's getting.

The overall chances of winning a Toyota Venza are about 1 in 8 million, the website says.

But according to the Toronto Star's tally, coffee drinkers in B.C. get the best odds — 1 in 5.9 million — while Ontarians are stuck with the worst, at 1 in 9.9 million. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

They spent how much on what?

A giant, flying banana, tarot readings for social workers and handouts to the Big 3 automakers are all winners of The Canadian Taxpayers Federation tongue-in-cheek awards for government waste and mismanagement.

The federation annually hands out the spoof awards, named Teddies after a government bureaucrat fired for lavish expense spending a decade ago. The less-than-coveted "golden sows" are actually gilded piggy banks.

Lifetime

• The auto companies took the lifetime achievement award for their continuing reliance on government handouts.

This year's federal award went to the Canada Arts Council for spending $40,000 to fly a giant banana over Texas, and $15,000 to import a Belgian artist's machine that excretes phoney feces.

The provincial award winner was the Manitoba Child and Family Services agency, which ran a $2,300 spa day for staff that included pedicures, makeup lessons and tarot card readings.

Vancouver city council won the municipal award for its handling of the Olympic Village project, which left taxpayers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Markham council rejects plan for path
Markham councillors have rejected the town's recommended route for a 3-metre-wide path through isolated areas of the Milne Dam Conservation Area. Residents living adjacent to more remote parts of the park objected to putting a formal path, saying it could destroy plants and animal habitat. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Fantino targets adjudicator

Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Julian Fantino, left, isn't giving up his quest to have an adjudicator tossed from hearing a troubled disciplinary case that features accusations of witness tampering, petty malice and political interference. Fantino's lawyer said yesterday his client is hoping the province's top court will hear his contention that the adjudicator has shown bias against him, even though two courts have already rejected the complaint. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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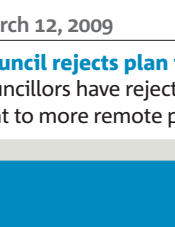
Tomorrow's Metro

Movies



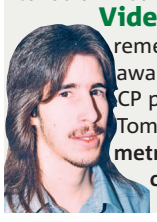
Metro finds out if horror remake The Last House on the Left leave its viewers satisfied.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video A Manitoba man whose murder conviction was overturned fights to clear his name at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Brian Coulton kicks off Metro's coverage of Canadian Music Week



Video Colleagues remember award-winning CP photographer Tom Hanson at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 2, 18, 20, 23, 24 & 48. Bonus 30.
Ontario 49: 8, 20, 21, 25, 30 & 32. Bonus 22.
Ontario Pick 3: 2 1 7; **Ontario Pick 4** : 7 6 9 1
Encore: 5562198
Daily Keno: 5, 9, 11, 18, 24, 25, 27, 29, 34, 39, 41, 42, 48, 54, 58, 60, 65, 66, 69, 70.
These results are not official.

News in brief

UNION Ann Dembinski, president of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79, said yesterday unionized employees at the City of Toronto are "making progress" in early talks, but warned that union members won't give away recent gains.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Losing an hour does matter

Police say accidents up 'dramatically' in week after daylight savings

What a difference an hour makes.

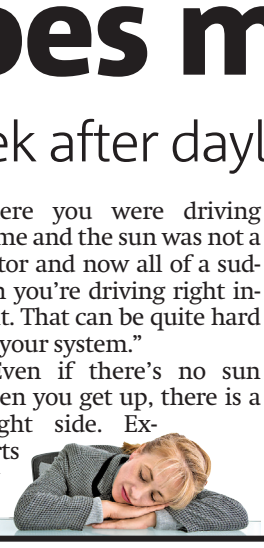
If you've found yourself falling asleep at your desk this week or feeling like a bag of rocks when getting out of bed in the morning, you can blame daylight saving time, Toronto sleep experts say.

"We already live in a time famine era," says Dr. Harvey Moldofsky, medical director of Toronto's Centre for Sleep and Chronobiology. "Throw in that extra hour and you're just tipping the balance. Your performance is going to be impacted. Your ability to work efficiently and drive safely is going to be affected."

While official statistics aren't in yet, Toronto police traffic services say the number of speed- and alcohol-related incidents over the last three days is "dramatically" higher than the same period last week.

"In one day you go from seven o'clock in the morning being in daylight to darkness," said Sgt. Tim Burrows. "In the afternoon, you have the same thing where you were driving home and the sun was not a factor and now all of a sudden you're driving right into it. That can be quite hard on your system."

Even if there's no sun when you get up, there is a bright side. Experts say most people get over the lost hour of sleep within a week.



The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia studied data from 2003 to 2007 and found an average of 700 crash incidents on the Monday following the switch to daylight saving time — an increase of 7 per cent.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto teachers gather at Mel Lastman square, which is beside the Toronto District School board offices, yesterday. The teachers are upset about the board's bad faith bargaining.

Trustees debate school cuts

VOTE In a bid to reduce the deficit but also serve students facing tough family times, the Toronto District School Board was considering cutting 24 teacher-librarians and 24 teachers from some of its most needy schools at a meeting last night.

Trustees had been asked by staff to drop 36 teacher-librarians and 55 teaching jobs in the city's most needy schools, as well as 150 education assistants, as a way to shave $8.8 million from a looming $23 million deficit.

But many trustees said such cuts would make it hard to serve students in an economy bound to heighten children's needs.

"In these hard economic times, when we know 60 per cent of children are growing up poor and will get poorer, we can't pull teachers out of the most impoverished schools," Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher said.

At press time, trustees still grappled with whether to cut staff at all.

While several trustees warned that refusing cuts puts them at risk of running an illegal deficit and being taken over by a government supervisor, others said they could not justify cutting professionals who make such a difference to learning.

"Forty years of research shows us teacher-librarians make a difference," said Trustee Irene Atkinson, who proposed rejecting the cuts.

However, former board chair Sheila Ward warned that to keep a deficit puts trustees at risk of a supervisor who will "come in and kick the crap out of the board."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Liberals aim to make teachers report assaults

SCHOOLS Ontario's Liberal government will introduce legislation today to make it mandatory for teachers and staff to report serious incidents like assaults to school principals.

The legislation follows a report that called for action to prevent violence and harassment among students and to make it easier for schools to report problems.

Education Minister Kathleen Wynne says some of the recommendations may seem like common sense, but the province can't simply depend on school staff to always know when to act.

Under the new rules, teachers would have to report any incidents of violence to a principal, and the principal would have to report it to parents.

Schools already have guidelines about reporting incidents of homophobia, sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual behaviour, but those regulations aren't always followed.

The government will also look at a recommendation to teach sexual education earlier because teenagers are becoming sexually active at a younger age.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

No photo radar for Mississauga

VOTE Mississauga Council has jammed the brakes on plans for a four-year, $6.5 million pilot project to launch photo radar on city streets — an idea that would have been contingent on provincial approval.

Citing cost concerns at a time when the city is trying to show financial restraint, negative public reaction and other issues, council voted 7-2 yesterday to take no action on a staff report recommending the project.

However, council authorized Mayor Hazel McCallion to meet with Premier Dalton McGuinty to discuss the issue.

Since the province's experiment with photo radar on 400-series highways in the early 1990s was killed by the Mike Harris government, requests by municipalities to bring it back have been rejected.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Why Louise was lucky it was just her life savings she lost.

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Man found guilty in second murder trial

A man once acquitted in the stabbing death of 20-year-old Salim Jabaji at a 2001 rave party has been found guilty after a second trial. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Ontario approves apology legislation

Ontario became the latest province yesterday to adopt an apology law that will allow people to say they're sorry without fear of having it turned against them in court.

Under the new rules, apologies can't be used as an admission of fault or liability and won't affect someone's insurance coverage — a move critics warn may do victims more harm than good.

Fewer people apologize because they're afraid it could come back to haunt them if they are sued, Attorney General Chris Bentley said after the bill passed third and final reading in the legislature.

"If you do harm, your natural instinct is to say, 'I'm sorry."
Chris Bentley, attorney general

"This removes a legislative barrier to do what we all think is the right thing to do," he said.

"If you do harm, your natural instinct is to say, 'I'm sorry", Bentley said.

British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have similar apology laws, and 35 U.S. states have some form of apology legislation. Ontario victims will still be able to sue and seek compensation, but apologizing can help resolve disputes sooner and speed up the healing process, Bentley said.

The law needed to be changed because it was getting in the way of early apologies that could have averted lawsuits, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dump truck runs over woman

FATALITY A 58-year-old Scarborough woman died in her daughter's arms yesterday morning, after the woman was run down by a dump truck in North York.

It was just before 7 a.m. when the woman, who works as a building cleaner in the Pine Valley Drive and Steeles Avenue West neighbourhood, was crossing the intersection with her daughter on the east side.

Police said the pair veered off the crosswalk while walking south toward a TTC bus stop.

Then, a roll-off-bin truck with a nearly three-metre-high front end, made a left turn onto Steeles Avenue. The mother was hit and fell to the ground, suffering "massive head injuries," Toronto police Sgt. Tim Burrows said. Her 14-year-old daughter was also struck, but she was not badly hurt.

When emergency crews arrived, both the driver and daughter were administering CPR, said Burrows.

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The scene of a fatal accident on Pine Valley Road and Steeles Avenue. A woman and her teenage daughter were hit by a dump truck, the woman was killed and the daughter, although devastated, was not seriously injured.

"It's absolutely tragic. For a 14-year-old to lose their parent is enough, but to witness it, to be holding their mother when she passes away…" he added.

A man arrived about an hour-and-a-half after the crash and identified himself as the girl's biological father. Family friends had already taken the teen away, after she received minor medical treatment at the scene.

Burrows said investigators have decided not to release the victim's name "out of compassion," since her daughter is the only next of kin.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Graduation stats included those that took an extra year

SCHOOLS There is no valid reason why the Ontario government cannot learn how many students complete the province's four-year high school program on schedule, Premier Dalton McGuinty admitted yesterday.

"It probably wouldn't hurt to know that," McGuinty conceded after being pressed by reporters. "I don't see why it would be a problem for us to collect that information."

Ontario's official graduation rate includes students who take up to five years to complete high school, and the Education Ministry insisted it doesn't track how many graduate in four years.

The province was the last to scrap Grade 13 in 2003, but McGuinty said his government included five-year grads in statistics because that's the way it used to be.

The Progressive Conservatives said the government included five-year grads to boost the numbers, and warned the real graduation rate was probably lower than the claimed 77 per cent. "It's regrettable, but I'm not surprised because they have not shown leadership in a lot of (education) issues," said Opposition critic Joyce Savoline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DRUGS Seventeen people have been arrested following a police sweep of Leslieville and South Riverdale that targeted drug dealers and crack houses in the area. Police are still looking for 10 other suspects. In total, police laid 117 different charges and seized $42,000 worth of drugs.

CARJACKING A teenaged girl is facing six charges after a cab driver was violently attacked and his vehicle was carjacked Tuesday night. The 16-year-old female suspect who cannot be named has been charged with robbery, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, threatening death, assault with a weapon, assault and failure to stop after an accident.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Shops at Don Mills hosting job fair Saturday
The Shops at Don Mills, Toronto's new outdoor urban village opening April 22, will be holding a job fair Saturday. Visit www.shopsatdonmills.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Long road ahead for Chrysler, analyst says

As Chrysler Canada gets set to begin contract negotiations with its unionized employees, analysts say the troubled automaker is teetering on the brink of bankruptcy and labour costs are only a small part of its problems.

Joe D'Cruz, a professor at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, said Chrysler can't expect to regain financial health just by winning wage or other concessions from its workers.

"I don't think we should expect to solve this problem on the backs of the workforce," D'Cruz said.

"It's a management problem, and that's where we've got to look. We've got to ask serious questions about whether the existing management is appropriate for the task ahead."

Chrysler Canada and its parent company, Chrysler LLC, have been hit particularly hard by the slump in auto sales. Chrysler's Canadian sales were down 27 per cent in February compared with a year earlier, and the company has asked for $1 billion in emergency loans from the Ontario and federal governments — an amount that could balloon once the company's restructuring plan is complete. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers approve GM agreement

- Members of the Canadian Auto Workers union voted 87 per cent in favour of a new cost-cutting contract with General Motors, the union said last night. The deal reached between the union and the struggling automaker last weekend includes a wage freeze to September 2012.

Queen's Park **There are no atheists in a recession**

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Faced with the deepening recession, an interfaith group organizes a vigil outside the Ontario legislature yesterday. The Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition says it will pray for MPPs and those affected by the economic downturn at Queen's Park gatherings this month.

Jobs remain in peril in auto sector: McGuinty

Negotiators are making progress on an aid package for automakers, but that doesn't guarantee the industry won't shed jobs and come out of the economic crisis smaller, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

While the Ontario government is doing everything it can to guarantee job security will be part of any aid package, it can't make promises, McGuinty said when pushed in the legislature on the issue.

"I wish I could provide the assurance the leader of the NDP is seeking on behalf of those families," McGuinty said in response to a question from New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath.

"Ultimately, the decision as to how many Ontarians will be employed in this sector will be the outcome of negotiations between management and labour."

The government's focus, he added, is on maintaining the current level of production rather than specific jobs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Encouraged'

- While Federal Industry Minister Tony Clement expressed doubt that concessions by the union or even an increase in Canadian purchases will help, his Ontario counterpart said Clement is "encouraged by what's taken place and there's no divergence of opinion."

News in brief

COYOTE Paintball guns and air horns are the latest tactics being used in a Beach neighbourhood to scare off a pair of coyotes, one of which stalked and killed a small dog last month. "We want the coyote to get the idea that people are not their friends and that, in fact, they should feel fearful of us," said Eletta Purdy, manager of Toronto Animal Services.

WATER Toronto city councillors ordered bottled water to be removed from city hall "immediately" last December, but then discovered they're stuck with a vending machine contract that doesn't allow them to bar bottled water. This week, all the offending machines have been turned to face the wall, so thirsty councillors and city hall visitors can't buy the evil water bottles — or juice or soft drinks, for that matter.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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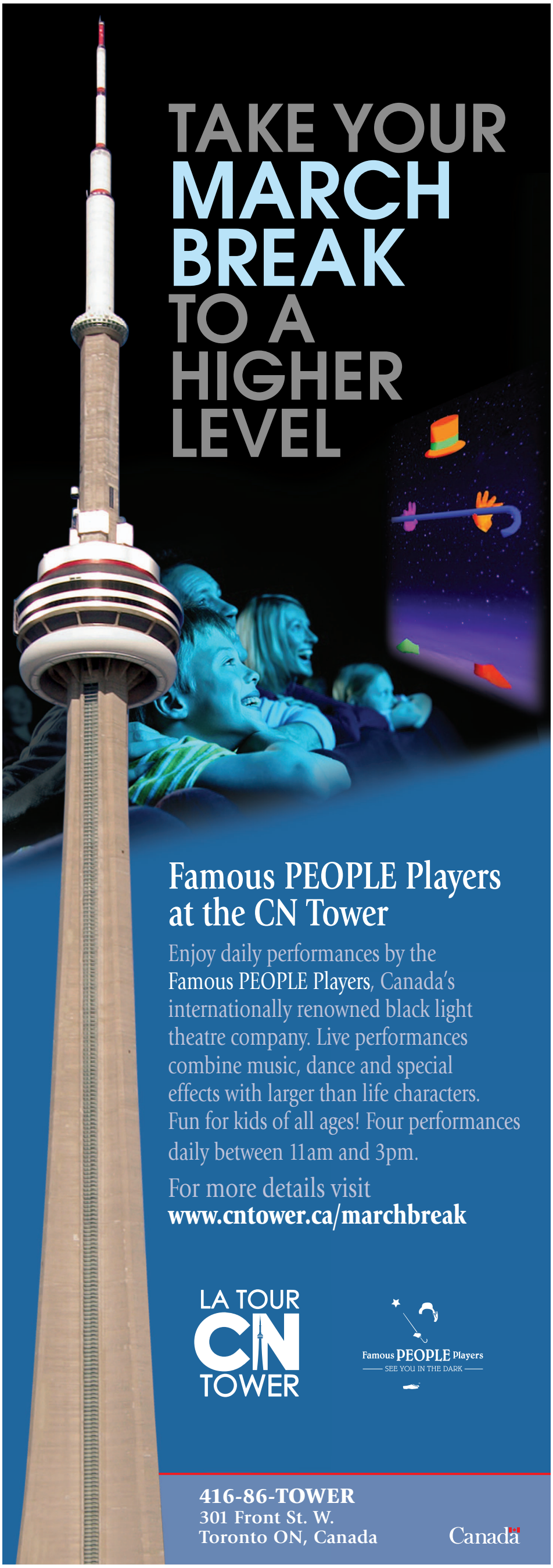

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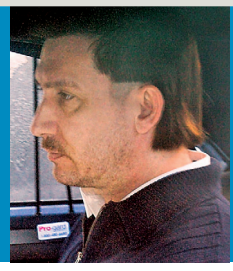
Cannon pushing Arctic sovereignty

Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon says Canada will staunchly defend its sovereignty over Arctic lands and waters, but urges international co-operation to deal with changes being brought by global warming. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Dagenais' fate in jury's hands

The fate of 44-year-old Curt Dagenais, right, charged with killing two Saskatchewan Mounties, is in the hands of a jury. A judge has sequestered the six men and six women after about seven hours of instructions and explaining they must consider several factors when considering Dagenais' claim that the officers shot at him first and he fired back as a matter of survival. THE CANADIAN PRESS



B.C. native leaders call for inquiry

MISSING WOMEN Frustrated family members, First Nations leaders and advocacy groups called yesterday for a public inquiry into the missing and murdered women of British Columbia.

The Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs said the inquiry must examine the actions of police surrounding the missing women of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and those who vanished along Highway 16, between Prince George and Prince Rupert. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

GUILTY PLEA Barry Manion, 61, of London, Ont., yesterday admitted to killing his cousin's 12-year-old daughter, Katherine Wilson, in 1970, and was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 10 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man survives Niagara fall

A man survived a plunge over Niagara Falls yesterday and was in hospital with hypothermia and a head injury after a dramatic river rescue.

A tourist called police at about 2:15 p.m. to say he saw a man climb over the retaining wall above the Canadian Horseshoe Falls, said Sgt. Chris Gallagher of Niagara Parks police.

"The male was observed going down to the water's edge and jumping in of his own accord into the river above the falls," Gallagher said.

The man was swept over the falls and plunged almost 60 metres into the Niagara River below. Police spotted him floating about 300 metres from the base of the falls in front of a power plant, Gallagher said.

MIKE DIBATTISTA/THE CANADIAN PRESS/THE NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW

Rescuers pull a man from the Niagara River after witnesses said he went over the Horseshoe Falls yesterday. The man survived the plunge and reportedly held on for about 30 minutes in the frigid Niagara River before rescuers pulled him to shore.

Officers yelled at him to swim to shore, but he wouldn't comply. A helicopter from a private firm was sent to retrieve the man, but was unsuccessful. However, the chopper hovered above the man, using the force from its rotor blades to create a current that pushed him toward shore, Gallagher said.

Police would not identify the man, but said he appeared to be between 35 and 40 years old.

Once the man was close to shore, the fire department's river rescue unit pulled him out. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories look to ban big political loans

FUNDING The Harper Tories plan to revive legislation aimed at shutting off the last big-money tap in federal politics.

Steven Fletcher, minister of state for democratic reform, intends to reintroduce a bill that makes it impossible for politicians to rely on hefty loans from wealthy supporters to finance their campaigns.

The move is intended to close a "loophole" in political financing laws, which Fletcher says allowed Liberal leadership contenders to borrow huge amounts of money. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Debt

- Candidates from the 2006 Liberal leadership contest are are said to be still struggling to pay off $1.4 million in loans and unpaid claims.

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Group working on bringing alleged Canadian terrorist home

A group trying to repatriate a Montrealer who was once labelled a terrorist operative in Sudan is expected to announce plans today to bring him home from the African country. Abousfian Abdelrazik was visiting his ailing mother in Sudan in 2003 when he was arrested for alleged terror links. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Flaherty optimistic for rebound

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is sticking with the view that Canada will exit the recession ahead of most other countries despite a new report suggesting the economy may be weaker than previously reported.

Stimulus

- The federal government has established a new website (ActionPlan.gc.ca) so Canadians can track how their stimulus dollars are being spent.

The finance minister trumpeted a new International Monetary Fund report yesterday that says Canada "is better placed than many countries to weather the financial turbulence and worldwide recession."

Flaherty said the IMF report shows the government is doing the right thing in combatting the recession.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE ON THE IMF REPORT, PAGE 20

Going against the grain

BlackBerry maker RIM announces plans for hirings

BlackBerry maker Research in Motion is ushering in thousands of new employees this year, hoping to gain an edge over its competitors by hiring tech gurus laid off by others in slower parts of the technology sector.

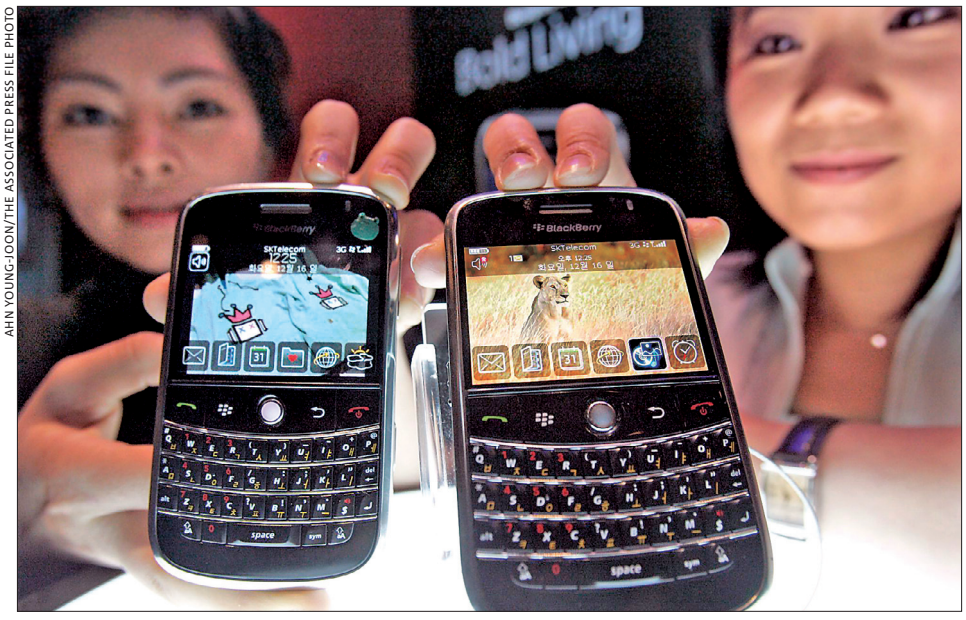
The Waterloo-based company has emerged as one of the rare Canadian companies actually growing operations during the economic downturn, with plans to add about 3,000 new workers in 2009 and increase its workforce to about 12,000.

Founder and co-CEO Mike Lazaridis said his company isn't battening down the hatches as it weathers the recession, but rather looking for ways to grow the company.

"This is the easiest time to say, 'I have to be very careful and wind down my investments,' " he said recently.

But "this is the exact time to invest — if you can — because not only is there opportunity, but there are lots of resources out there."

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO



BlackBerry Bold smartphones are displayed during a launch ceremony late last year in Seoul, South Korea. Research In Motion plans to increase its workforce with about 3,000 new workers this year.

Such an optimistic tone by one of Canada's best-known technology companies helps mute out some of the recessionary drumbeats that have intensified in recent months as the economy sheds hundred of thousands of jobs.

Tomorrow, Statistics Canada is set to report a likely jump in the current 7.2 per cent jobless rate for February, after 213,000 lost jobs since November that pushed unemployment up a full percentage point. Many economists predict Canada's jobless rate could approach nine per cent before a recovery expected next year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Companies charged for dumping

ALBERTA Suncor Energy Inc. and two of its contractors are headed to court next month after being charged with dumping partially-treated sewage from two work camps into a northern Alberta river.

The charges laid last year under Alberta's Environmental Protection Act include failing to properly treat wastewater and providing false or misleading information to the environment ministry. Environment Minister Rob Renner said the charges were laid after a routine audit found problems with the sewage discharge into the Athabasca River.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ANIMALS The SPCA has begun an animal cruelty investigation after finding five dead horses and 12 others that are starving at a First Nations reserve in British Columbia's Interior region. The SPCA's main concern is getting food to the animals that a veterinarian has determined are emaciated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tax cuts. Reach out and claim them.

The Government of Canada has introduced a wide range of tax cuts to help Canadians save on their taxes. Lower taxes are part of *Canada's Economic Action Plan*.

There are measures like the Children's Fitness Tax Credit, which allows parents to claim up to $500 in eligible fitness expenses paid for each qualifying child.

There are also the Public Transit Tax Credit and other tax savings designed to benefit people and families from all walks of life.

You've earned it. Claim it.

Find out what you're entitled to claim and how to file your tax return online at **canada.gc.ca/taxinfo**.

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Hells Angel boss sentenced
Dale Donovan, former president of the Manitoba Hells Angels, was sentenced to 8½ years in jail for drug trafficking. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CEOs pledge $50M for aboriginal business fund

A new $50-million fund to build aboriginal business and entrepreneurship has some of Canada's top chief executives and business leaders pledging their support, former prime minister Paul Martin said yesterday.

Loans are being distributed through private equity firm CAPE Fund Management Inc., with a goal of creating or growing businesses that will be profitable and benefit aboriginal communities.

The Capital for Aboriginal Prosperity and Entrepreneurship program also has a mandate of putting aboriginals in management positions of the companies involved, and eventually having those businesses completely owned and controlled by aboriginal communities.

"This is not charity, this is investment," said Martin, who spearheaded the project with his son David.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
Paul Martin

"It provides a financial return but it also provides a social return, which is the principal thrust of what we want to do here."

In a statement, Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine said the fund is an "incredible opportunity" to create and promote economic independence.

"First Nations want to be active participants in Canada's economy and the CAPE fund will help us achieve that goal," Fontaine said.

Business leaders were told that although aboriginals are the youngest and fastest growing segment of the population, they're being denied access to mentorship, opportunities and entrepreneurship, Martin said.

"We've got to do something about that."

Canada's major banks along with Barrick, Manulife Financial, Standard Life, Sun Life Financial, SNC Lavalin and Teck are among the 21 companies that have signed on to invest. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Father and son confront firebombers

CALGARY A homeowner and his teenage son got into a fight early yesterday with two men who threw Molotov cocktails into their house.

Police said the two confronted the intruders inside the southeast Calgary home and then chased them outside. One of the suspects drove away, while the other fled on foot.

He was tracked down several blocks away, covered in blood, and was arrested and sent to hospital with head wounds.

Police said he was being guarded by officers; his injuries were not life-threatening.

Three people inside the house, aged 37, 32 and 17, were also taken to hospital with burns to hands and legs, cuts and smoke inhalation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories move to restore anti-terrorism powers

PARLIAMENT The Conservative government is moving to restore extraordinary police and judicial powers dropped from the federal Anti-Terrorism Act two years ago.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson gave parliamentary notice late Tuesday that he will bring in legislation to renew police powers of preventive arrest in cases where a terrorist act is perceived to be imminent.

The bill, which could be introduced in the Commons as early as today, is also expected to reinstate investigative hearings in which people believed to have knowledge of terrorist activity can be compelled to testify before a judge.

The provisions were part of the anti-terror legislation rushed through Parliament in late 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in the United States.

But both the arrest and hearing provisions lapsed under a five-year sunset clause on March 1, 2007, after the Liberal opposition refused to vote for their continuance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

QUEBEC An anonymous donor is offering a $10,000 reward for the safe return of a Quebec teen who has been missing for more than a month. David Fortin, 14, disappeared Feb. 10 from Alma, about 250 kilometres north of Quebec City. Police say they have few leads but believe he ran away from home, due to bullying, his parents say. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE BAY

Halifax town crier dead
Peter Cox, the official town crier of the Halifax Regional Municipality, died Tuesday of cancer at age 76. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Transportation plan for Olympics unveiled

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Vancouver is throwing a party for the world in 2010, but it's going to be a bit difficult to get there.

Olympic organizers released a wide-ranging transportation plan yesterday designed to keep cars off the road through street closures, lane reductions and an ambitious reliance on public transit for residents, spectators and athletes.

Over 30 blocks of the city's downtown will be converted to pedestrian-only corridors after noon each day.

On top of public transit, over 1,500 Olympic-specific buses will be used as part of a strategy that includes city priority lanes and alternating traffic on the key artery between Vancouver and the host mountain resort of Whistler, B.C.

There is also only one route up to Whistler, though organizers have put in place a contingency plan involving a service road and the possible use of boats in the event the highway is forced to close during the Games.

Spectators will have to book a $25 round trip ticket on a bus to Whistler to attend events.

Anyone wanting to drive up the 100-kilometre long Sea-to-Sky Highway will have to pass through a checkpoint at Squamish and prove they either live along the route or have a parking spot in Whistler.

There will be very little public parking in Whistler, none at Olympic venues and hardly any on Vancouver's downtown streets.

Officials didn't reveal much detail on how the athletes and media will be ferried around during the Games, but said the plans — scaled back to cut costs — might include public transit for athletes attending other events rather than a dedicated shuttle bus. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A girl looks at Olympic rings that lit up the road leading from Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, B.C., to Vancouver.

News in brief

SUDBURY Friends and family will gather in Sudbury, Ont. this week for the funeral of a 17-year-old girl who died on a school ski trip. Elisabeth Reurink, who attended Central Catholic School in London, Ont., struck a tree at the bottom of a hill at the Blue Mountain Ski Resort.

HALIFAX Nova Scotia's Conservative minority says it will spend $800 million in economic stimulus over the next three years, but at a cost of adding $1.4 billion to the province's debt. Premier Rodney MacDonald says the $1.9-billion package includes $1.1 billion in spending earmarked for capital projects. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New trial ordered for man jailed 14 years for murder

MANITOBA Federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson ordered a new trial yesterday for a Manitoba man who spent 14 years in prison for the murder of a teenage girl at a rock concert — the latest reversal of a conviction based on flawed hair analysis used by the RCMP.

Kyle Unger was convicted of first-degree murder two years after the 1990 slaying of Brigitte Grenier, 16, at a music festival in Roseisle, Man.

"I am satisfied there is a reasonable basis to conclude that a miscarriage of justice likely occurred in Mr. Unger's 1992 conviction," Nicholson said.

Grenier's body was found in a creek not far from the festival site. She had been mutilated and sexually assaulted.

Unger, released on bail in 2005 while his case was reviewed, was convicted partly because an RCMP forensics expert testified that a hair found on the victim's clothing came from him. Years later, DNA testing proved the hair came from someone else. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Senior Tamil Tiger leader killed
Sri Lanka's military says a senior Tamil Tiger rebel leader, Sabaratnam Selvathurai, has been killed in a government attack during battles in the last rebel-held town of Puthukkudiyiruppu. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

France to rejoin NATO military?

French President Nicolas Sarkozy says the time has come for France to rejoin NATO's military command that it quit 43 years ago. Sarkozy says France's independence won't be in question — a clear message to critics who fear he is handing over too much national sovereignty to the alliance.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

15 killed in German shooting spree

Teen gunman kills self after slayings at former high school, car dealership

A 17-year-old gunman dressed in black opened fire at his former high school and an auto dealership in southwestern Germany yesterday, killing 15 people before he turned the gun on himself, authorities said.

The gunman entered the school in Winnenden at 9:33 a.m. after classes had begun and began shooting at random, police said. He killed nine students, three teachers and a passer-by outside the building, officials said. Two other people were killed later.

Triggering a land and air manhunt, the gunman hijacked a car and forced the driver to head south, sitting in the back seat, according to Stuttgart prosecutors who are leading the investigation.

When the driver swerved off the road to avoid a police checkpoint, he managed to escape and the suspect, identified only as Tim K., ran into an industrial area in the town of Wendlingen with police in pursuit.

There he entered an auto dealership, shooting and killing a salesman and a customer, and then went back outside, prosecutors said.

"In front of the auto dealership the young man then opened fire toward the many police vehicles," prosecutors said. "A gunbattle ensued between the 17-year-old and the many police involved in the pursuit of him. According to our current information, the 17-year-old then shot himself."

Police said the suspect was a German teen who graduated last year from the school of about 1,000 students.

No motive has been identified. The victims were primarily female.

In their hunt for the gunman, police searched his parents' home in a nearby town. The suspect's father, who is a member of a local gun club, was missing one of his 16 firearms, police said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DANIEL MAURER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Morticians carry a body in the Albertville school complex in Winnenden, Germany, yesterday.

History

Here is a glance at some of the worst school shootings in recent years:

- Feb. 14, 2008: Former student Steven Kazmierczak, 27, opens fire at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, killing five students and wounding 18 before committing suicide.
- April 16, 2007: Cho Seung-Hui, 23, fatally shoots 32 people at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg then kills himself.
- April 26, 2002: Robert Steinhaeuser, 19, previously expelled from a school in Erfurt, Germany, kills 13 teachers, two former classmates and a policeman before committing suicide.

Republicans label Obama a socialist

POLITICS U.S. President Barack Obama's plans are "one big down payment on a new American socialist experiment," says one top Republican. He's "the world's best salesman of socialism," says another.

"Lenin and Stalin would love this stuff," declares Mike Huckabee, one-time Republican presidential candidate.

Barack Obama

Less than two months into Obama's presidency, Republicans and their conservative supporters are trying to fight a popular commander-in-chief by routinely referring to the economic downturn as the "Obama recession" while accusing him of being a socialist in his efforts to jump-start the economy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Women's panel

- Obama has created a White House council to advise him on issues facing women and girls. The announcement comes as part of a push to mark Women's History Month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

COURT Italy's Constitutional Court began deliberations yesterday on a government motion to throw out charges against 26 Americans accused of involvement in an alleged CIA kidnapping of an Egyptian terror suspect in Milan in 2003. The government argued that the Milan judge who issued the indictments unlawfully relied on classified information.

LAWSUIT A 21-year-old Yale University student from Ohio has filed a lawsuit seeking $1 million US from US Airways for an Xbox 360 video game console he says was taken from his luggage. He's asking for $1,700 for the loss of the gaming system and for the maximum damages allowable, or $1 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

*The $1,500 offer, based on 7 nights at the Bahia Principe San Juan - Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, applies to Toronto departures for 2 adults & 2 children (12 years of age and under) sharing one standard hotel room. Accommodation upgrades are available at extra cost. Flights are via Air Transat. Additional Bahia resorts are available in the Caribbean and Mexico - call a Bel Air Travel agent for more information. Price is available at press time, is capacity controlled, subject to change and applies to new bookings only. For a family of 3 (2 adults, 1 child 12 years of age and under) or couples, deduct $250 per room. Not applicable to groups. Not combinable with any other offer or promotion. Other restrictions may apply. Offer may be changed or discontinued without further notice. For full terms & conditions, see Sunquest Southern Sun 2008/2009 brochure. Visit BelAirTravel.com/mc for more details. Operated under MyTravel Canada Inc. Ont. Reg. #50010226.
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Gas leak postpones shuttle launch

NASA postponed the launch of space shuttle Discovery yesterday because of a leak of gaseous hydrogen as the launch team was filling the external fuel tank for liftoff last night. Shuttle officials are now shooting for a launch tonight. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Silent protest against IRA dissidents

ON EDGE Several thousand Catholics and Protestants united in a silent protest yesterday against the Irish Republican Army dissidents who have put Northern Ireland on edge — and its peace in doubt — with deadly attacks that have left three dead since the weekend.

More than 2,000 people gathered at lunchtime in front of Belfast City Hall to register their protest against Northern Ireland's worst dissident IRA violence in a decade. Thousands more gathered in at least three other cities, including predominantly Catholic Londonderry and Newry, where dissidents have been active.

"No going back," read placards at all the protests.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rivals join forces in war on drugs

OPERATION The United Nations drugs agency says Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan have carried out their first joint counter narcotics operation. Agency chief Antonio Maria Costa says the operation sent "a very important political message" to drug traffickers in the region.

Narcotics were seized and traffickers arrested in Sunday's operation along Iran's borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan. The three countries shared intelligence and carried out joint patrols.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHIL COALE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Josh Myers, left, a deputy with the Geneva County Sheriff's department whose wife and daughter were killed in a Tuesday shooting in Samson, is consoled by a friend yesterday.

Alabama shooter kept hit list

SPREE A man who killed 10 people in two rural Alabama counties before committing suicide had been keeping a list of those "who done him wrong," a district attorney said yesterday.

Investigators trying to figure out why Michael McLendon, 28, killed relatives and others Tuesday found the list in his home. The list was made up of former employers, including a sausage plant where he quit his job last Wednesday.

McLendon's mother, his grandmother, his uncle and two cousins were among the victims. A witness said McLendon wordlessly and expressionlessly pulled his car up to a house where they were sitting and opened fire.

First, McLendon set his mother's house on fire and killed her, then drove 20 kilometres and opened fire on his uncle's front porch, killing five more people and his grandmother. Then, he drove through town and fired seemingly at random, killing three more people.

With police in pursuit, he ended up at the metals plant where he once worked, and shot himself after a shootout with officers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

SHOOTING A 48-year-old gunman was shot dead in the emergency room of a suburban Las Vegas hospital yesterday after police say he raised his weapon in their direction and threatened suicide. Police say two officers fired multiple times and fatally wounded the man when he refused commands to drop the gun at St. Rose Dominican Hospital Siena campus in Henderson.

WORLD COURT Judges at the International Criminal Court have elected a South Korean judge as the tribunal's new president. Song Sang-hyun has been elected to a three-year term. He replaces Canadian Philippe Kirsch, whose term ended this week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dealership execs vanish with cars

GONE The owner and two managers at a car dealership in western Nebraska have disappeared and so have about 80 cars.

A dealership employee said 30 Fords were loaded on trucks Saturday, and 50 Toyotas were apparently taken away Monday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tanks hold off Taliban

Canadians pass on lessons learned in Afghan fighting

Three years of fighting in the dust-choked lanes and tangled grape fields of Panjwaii district have taught Canadian soldiers some hard, bloody lessons.

As the U.S. prepares to surge 17,000 fresh troops into Afghanistan, they have two words of advice for their American colleagues: Bring tanks.

MURRAY BREWSTER/CANADIAN PRESS

A Leopard 2A6M tank navigates a mountain pass in Panjwaii District, Afghanistan.

By definition, the war in Kandahar is a counter-insurgency conflict meant to be fought with agile infantry, not burdensome iron beasts such as the Leopard 2A6Ms. The 64-tonne battle wagons were intended to slug it out with Soviet armoured formations on the plains of Europe, not necessarily chase bands of lightly armed insurgents.

But since the landmark battle Operation Medusa in 2006, the Leopards with their 120-millimetre cannon, have become a critical component of the army's arsenal. "You don't need a lot of them," Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, the chief of land staff, said.

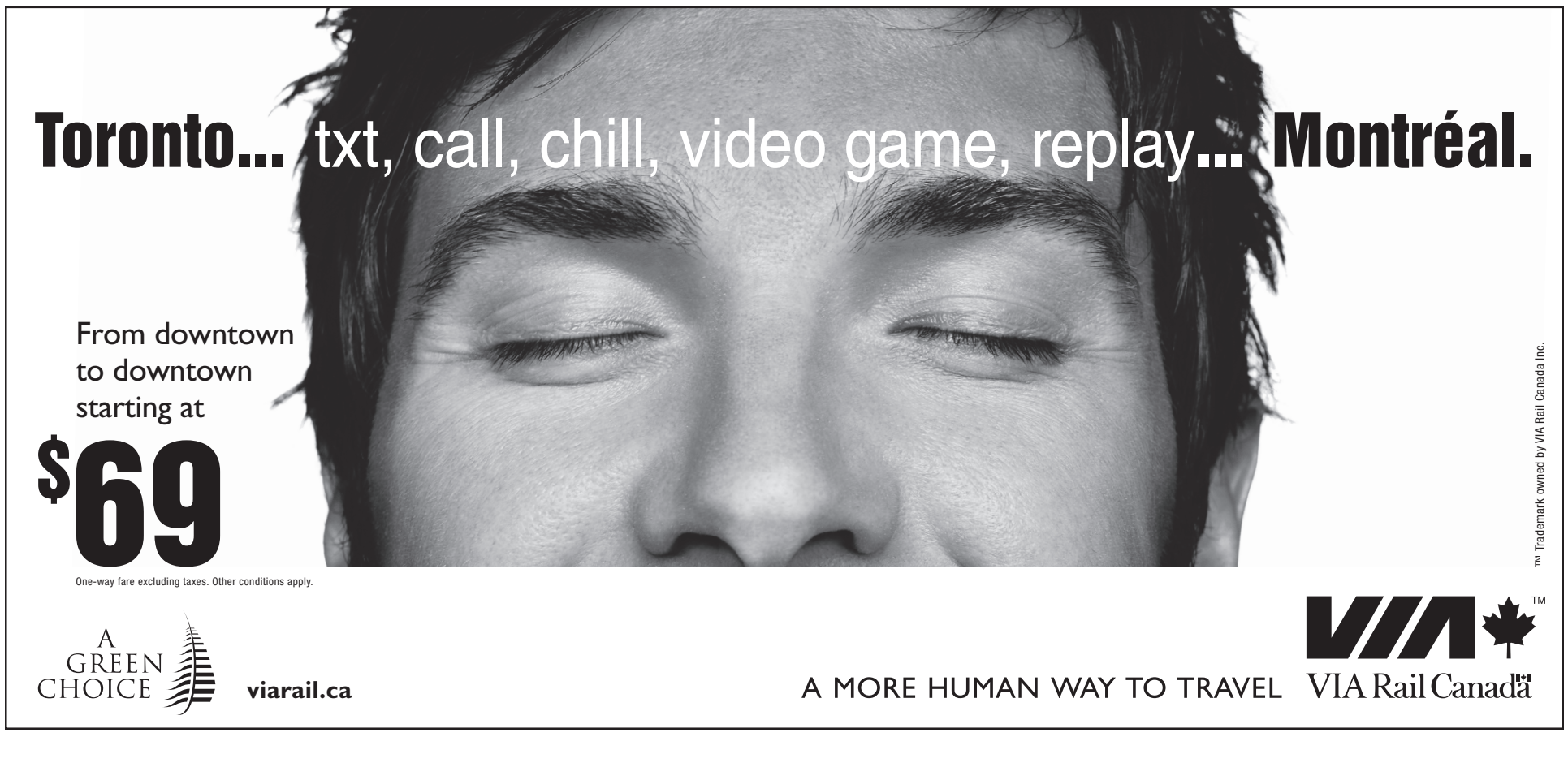
Canadians learned early when combat heated up that punching through the thick mud-walled compounds and grape huts, turned into redoubts by Taliban, was almost impossible with light weapons and required the heavy power of tanks.

The Americans are expected to deploy the U.S. army's 5th Stryker Brigade to Kandahar — a unit battle-hardened on the desert plains of Iraq. Those 4,000 soldiers travel in wheeled armoured vehicles similar to Canada's hardy LAV IIIs.

Leslie said he's recommending to American commanders that they bring "things much akin to a tank," either Bradley heavily armoured personnel carriers and/or M1A2 Abrams tanks.

The effect the tanks have had on the unpredictable guerilla battlefield is undeniable, forcing Taliban militants to hang back or retreat once the lumbering armoured vehicles appear.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Military changes in Madagascar
The leader of mutinous soldiers in Madagascar, Col. Andre Ndrianarijaona, has declared himself in control of the army. He told reporters the army's chief of staff agreed to the handover. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

FOOD POISONING Health officials say a top English restaurant that closed after hundreds of customers fell ill can reopen. Britain's Health Protection Agency says it still hasn't determined what caused the outbreak of diarrhea and vomiting linked to The Fat Duck. But it said yesterday preliminary findings suggest it is safe to reopen the Michelin-starred establishment. The Fat Duck closed Feb. 24. The restaurant, in the village of Bray, is run by celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal. He's known for elaborate culinary concoctions such as snail porridge. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan's ruling party faces growing unrest

Pakistan arrested hundreds of opposition activists yesterday and banned protests in two regions ahead of a planned rally outside parliament that could weaken the already shaky rule of the government.

The crackdown stands to damage the democratic credentials of the ruling party of President Asif Ali Zardari and stoke further anger at the government's one-year-old rule. The opposition, along with lawyers spearheading the planned protest, vowed to press on.

Pakistan's feisty lawyers, and Nawaz Sharif's opposition party are demanding Zardari fulfil a pledge to restore a group of judges fired by former president Pervez Musharraf in 2007. Zardari is refusing, apparently fearing they could try to limit his power or reopen corruption cases against him.

The protesters plan to stage a sit-in at the parliament building in Islamabad until their demands are met. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banned

- Last month, Nawaz Sharif and his brother were banned from elected office, enraging their followers and energizing the protest movement further.

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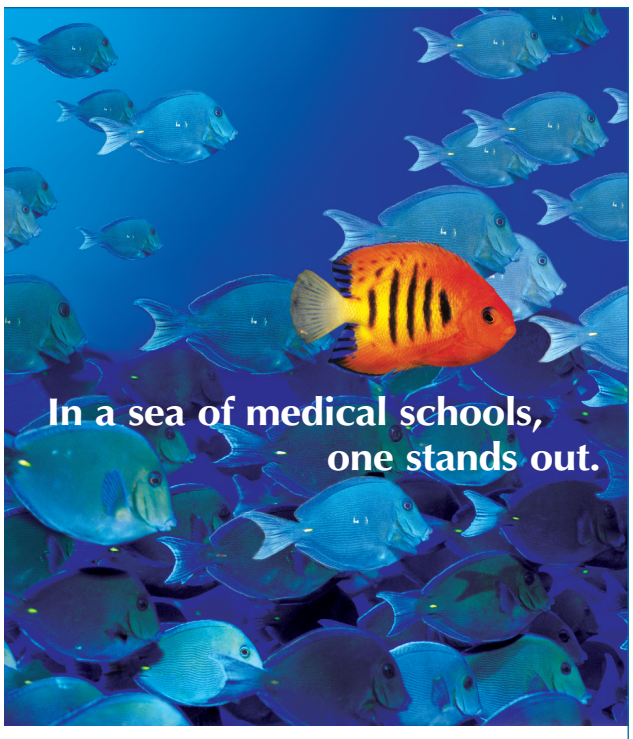

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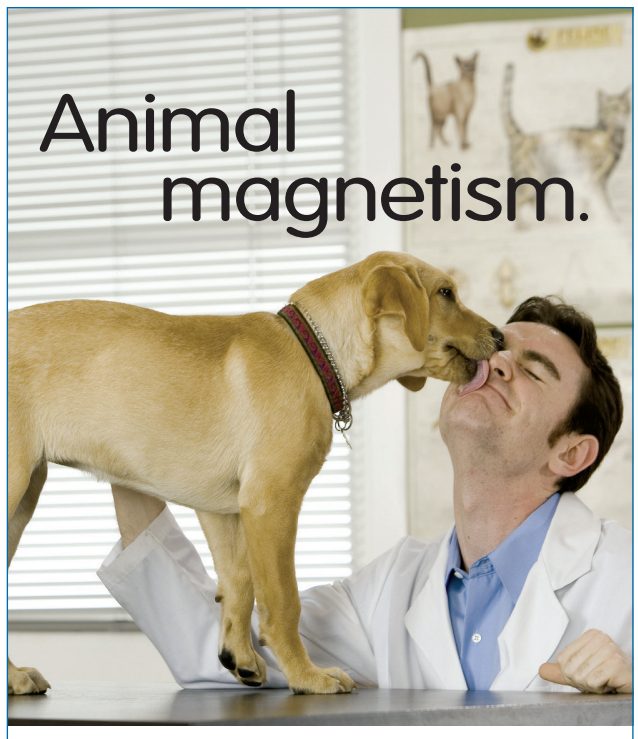

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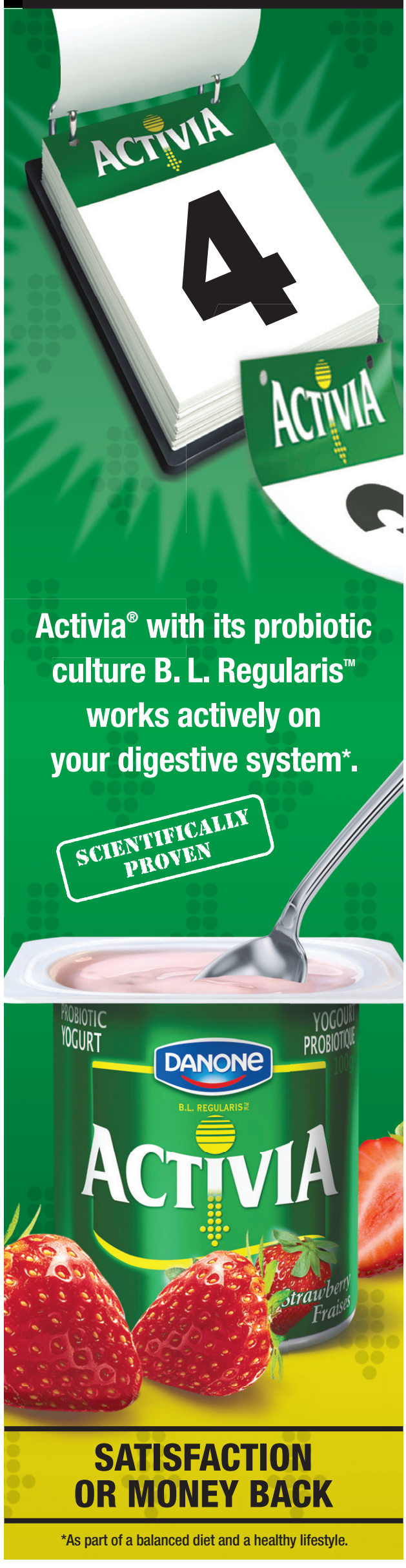

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Trams collide in Rotterdam

Police say a fast-moving tram slammed into another that was waiting at a stop in Rotterdam and 39 passengers have been injured. Spokeswoman Tinet de Jonge says police detained the driver of the moving tram for questioning. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

APTN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Chemical Ali," left, stands in a court in Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday.

Tariq Aziz gets 15 years in jail

Tariq Aziz, Saddam Hussein's former foreign minister, was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison yesterday for his role in the 1992 execution of 42 merchants accused of price gouging while Iraq was under UN sanctions.

The conviction was the first against Aziz, who for years was the regime's public face to the West.

Saddam's cousin, "Chemical Ali" al-Majid, got a 15-year prison sentence in the case.

Last week, Aziz — who turns 73 next month — was acquitted of being responsible for a brutal crackdown on Shiite protesters that followed the 1999 assassination of Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr — the father of anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Three other former regime officials were sentenced to death in that case, including Chemical Ali. It was his third death sentence for atrocities under Saddam's rule.

Aziz also faces charges in a third case involving the killing and arrest of hundreds of Kurds in the early 1980s that are still pending. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peking Man older, colder, study says

FOSSILS New research shows a famous early ancestor of humans was able to thrive in glacial weather that would send icy shivers up the spines of most modern people.

New dating techniques suggest the remains of so-called Peking Man — a batch of Homo erectus fossils found in the 1920s — are 200,000 years older than previously calculated. What's important about that date, about 770,000 years ago, is that this was a glacial period, and Peking Man was found in far northern China.

Study co-author Darryl Granger says that suggests Peking Man was probably the oldest cold weather inhabitant in human ancestry. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police may probe torture charges

BRITAIN Prime Minister Gordon Brown says police could launch criminal investigations into allegations that British spies colluded in the torture of terrorism suspects.

Brown told the House of Commons yesterday that the country's chief legal adviser will refer cases to police if she believes officials need to account for their actions.

Former Guantanamo Bay detainee Binyam Mohamed claims he was tortured in Pakistan and Morocco. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspect held in theft of painting

ROLE Norwegian police say they have detained one suspect on suspicion of having a role in the theft of a Renaissance painting by Lucas Cranach the Elder that had hung in a Lutheran church in Larvik for about 330 years.

The painting Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me could be worth up to $2.8 million US and was snatched in a predawn break-in Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

A stink-eye view of 'I do'

Relating

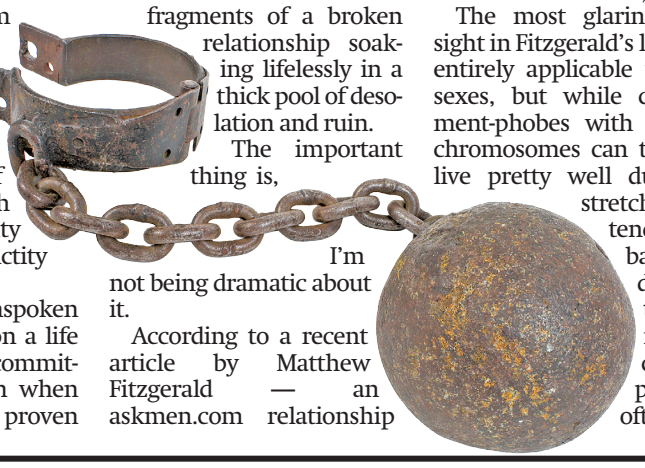
Andrea Woo

metronews.ca

There is a quaintness to the idea of settling down — getting married, breeding little humans and feeding them things you cooked with your own two hands — but at present, it strikes fear into the core of my being, like a death grip of domesticity threatening the sanctity of all things exciting.

Perhaps it is the unspoken agreement to take on a life more muted, or the commitment to one person when emotions have proven themselves fleeting and relationships can go sideways by sundown. Perhaps it's the utter selflessness required to be a good wife and mother, or the terror of moulding another human being from infancy through adolescence, hoping the final product isn't some warped creation I'd rather not put my name to.

Maybe it's the sheer horror of putting one's heart on the line only to have it be smashed to smithereens, fragments of a broken relationship soaking lifelessly in a thick pool of desolation and ruin.



The important thing is, I'm not being dramatic about it.

According to a recent article by Matthew Fitzgerald — an askmen.com relationship columnist and author of the completely unbiased and sophisticatedly titled Sex-Ploytation: How Women Use Their Bodies and Extort Money from Men — men fear commitment for reasons such as: "We've been burned before," "no more freedom" and "the emotional baggage."

(There were probably more, but the tedium of it all lulled me into a deep and immediate slumber.)

The most glaring oversight in Fitzgerald's list is it's entirely applicable to both sexes, but while commitment-phobes with the XY chromosomes can typically live pretty well during a stretch of extended bachelordom, their female counterparts are often presented with a secondary set of worries.

These include a smaller window of fertility for those who want children and everything from the social stigma of being a single, middle-age woman to some very tangible disparities that affect quality of life. (Women in Canada, for example, earn just 70 per cent of what men do and can struggle financially remaining unhitched.)

So while there's no shortage of women who "look at marriage through Cinderella eyes," as Fitzgerald so astutely states, it should also be noted there is no shortage of those who view it with a pronounced stink-eye.

In a chilly world frosted with uncertainty, men aren't the only ones with cold feet.

Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter. She won this column in a carnival dart game.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

You can't budget love, bad economy or not

ModernLife

Georgie Binks

metronews.ca

Imagine this — a van idles nearby Toronto's boardwalk. Inside, a tiny lantern glows with candlelight, a homemade CD of romantic tunes fills the air as two people slurp take-out ravioli and gaze lovingly at each other. After dinner, they stroll the frozen beach dipping their boots into the lake. The rest of the world is dressed up in its loveliest finery eating fancy food, but the financially-challenged are enjoying the inexpensive, but romantic 'car party.'

Should romance suffer just because your wallet is light? In fact, couples may find things a lot more romantic if they have to start creating their own romance. After all, big spending doesn't equal great love. In fact, when money starts to disappear the inventive spirit kicks in. Romantic picnics in front of the fireplace, walks in the moonlight, breakfast in bed, all beat food with weird names served by out-of-work actors every time.

"Couples may find things a lot more romantic if they have to start creating their own romance."

With that in mind, you'd hope the princesses of romance, this year's prospective brides, would be crocheting romantic table centrepieces and engraving their own invitations to save some money. Surprisingly, in a Wedding Bells magazine survey released earlier this month, 62 per cent of brides refused to compromise on reception catering, while 46 per cent weren't budging on the dress or the honeymoon. Those ladies are also heading into talks with the government about the auto industry's future later this month. My parents had a tiny wedding, no engagement ring, bed-and-breakfast honeymoon and will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this year.

Money won't buy romance and if you've ever been through a divorce, you'll know arguing over it can sure kill memories of it fast. Hoping it might find you some new romance? Well, good luck. Naïve visitors to Internet dating sites in their earliest incarnation quickly learned big dinner/roses dates were a dud, after a series of one-night dinner stands. Potential suitors soon switched to coffee dates. It's more likely you'll have romance with your garage mechanic during that next oil change.

For free, why not create your own romantic moments with the garage mechanic? Replace that expensive dinner date out with your childhood fave 'Birthday Party casserole' served on a tray attached to Scruffy? Instead of expensive concerts, borrow your kid's Guitar Hero for romantic music. Pull out your high school poetry. Gaze at the stars.

OK, I'm out. Now that I think of it, I hope this recession ends fast. A girl can only create so much homemade romance.

Riding the **Recession**

Georgie Binks is a Toronto freelance writer who has written about gender and relationships for CBC.ca, Elle, Chatelaine and Homemakers; georgiebinks@rogers.com.

Letters

Getting away with murder

The family of a man who was beheaded on a Greyhound bus says his killer is "getting away with murder." I totally agree.

Vince Li committed the act, but the court ruled Vince did not appreciate the act he committed was morally wrong.

Do we as a Canadian society care about what this monster appreciates?

Let us as a society care for the brokenhearted family and for safe public spaces.

SUSANNE TREICHEL, MISSISSAUGA

Adopt from the SPCA not puppy breeders

Re: Beware bad breeders, Mar 6-8.

While I sympathize with Michelle Dean's puppy tribulations, and strongly admire her for staying the course, people looking for a companion animal might do well to check their local animal shelter. Rather than patronizing a pet store or breeder, adopting one of these shelter animals can literally save that animal's life.

Shelters usually even have a selection of purebreds, if that's what you're looking for.

MICHAEL HAYWARD, TORONTO

Canadians are peacekeepers

Re: Canada to acquire attack drones: General, Mar 5.

The federal government has plans for a $500 million defence program to purchase the next generation of armed unmanned aircraft.

These would be similar to the U.S. Predator, pilotless planes that killed innocents as well as insurgents in Pakistan through Hellfire missile strikes.

For decades, Canada was the world's number one provider of peacekeeping soldiers to the United Nations. But today, Canada's contribution is fewer than 100 soldiers.

What role do we want our military to play in the world? Is spending half a billion dollars on 'killer drones' the best use of taxpayers' money? For those proud of Canada's peacekeeping tradition, the answer is a resounding no.

LARRY KAZDAN, VANCOUVER

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Bombardier to build 30 aircraft for Lufthansa
Bombardier Inc. shares rose more than 10 per cent yesterday after Deutsche Lufthansa placed firm orders for 30 of the CSeries regional jets, providing reassurances that the German airline company remains committed to the new plane. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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Price dip lures homebuyers

REPORT First-time homebuyers are being lured into the real estate market by falling prices, lower interest rates, more selection and new government incentives, a new report shows.

The ReMax real estate company said sales were up in February, after a terrible January. Lower prices and record low lending rates are prompting many first-time buyers to "get off the fence," it said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Worried Transat suspends payout

TURBULENCE Travel operator Transat A.T. Inc. suspended its dividend yesterday as it preserves cash in anticipation that economic turbulence won't dissipate until possibly 2011.

Tight competition to sun destinations continued to drive down margins for Transat, whose airline has been stung by high fuel hedges, raising operating costs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada well placed to face crisis: IMF

Visiting team finds country more resilient

The International Monetary Fund says Canada is "better placed than many countries" but its economy will still likely suffer further in the near term amid "the rapid deterioration in the global environment."

"Real exports and output have fallen and are likely to decline further in coming months," Charles Kramer, head of a mission from the global economic stabilization agency that visited Canada, said yesterday.

"Global financial strains have also spilled over to Canada, although its financial system is faring better than many abroad."

Kramer added that after declining further, Canada's economy will pick up "on the back of the policy stimulus already in train." He did not specify when this might happen.

> **"Global financial strains have also spilled over to Canada, although its financial system is faring better than many abroad."**
> Charles Kramer, IMF

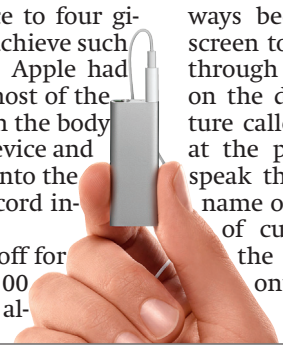
The IMF team found that Canada has more resilience than many other countries thanks to sound macroeconomic policy including past government debt reduction and low inflation. It also said national authorities responded quickly to the crisis, and the federal budget and stimulus package presented in January "was large, timely, and well targeted, and it will buoy demand during the downturn."

The report noted that Canada's banks are well capitalized and have avoided the large losses experienced in other countries. "Moreover, credit growth has held up well, and financial strains are markedly less serious than elsewhere." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smaller iPod shuffle launched

SLIM Apple Inc. unveiled a minuscule new iPod Shuffle yesterday that takes its "smaller is better" mantra to a whole new level.

The third-generation Shuffle, a slim aluminum rectangle less than seven centimetres long, takes up about half as much space as the previous version even as it doubles music storage space to four gigabytes. To achieve such a tiny form, Apple had to remove most of the buttons from the body of the $99 device and build them into the headphone cord instead.



The trade-off for a sub-$100 Shuffle has always been the lack of a screen to visually navigate through the music stored on the device. A new feature called VoiceOver can, at the push of a button, speak the song and artist name or rattle off the list of custom mixes that the owner has loaded onto the device. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

AUTOS Ford Motor Co. said yesterday that recent modifications to its contract with the United Auto Workers union would help the company achieve parity with wages paid in the United States by overseas-based automakers. Ford said its labour and benefit costs would total $55 US an hour by the end of the year, compared with estimates of $48 to $49 at foreign automaker plants in the U.S.

BANKING C.A. Bancorp Inc., a Toronto-based merchant bank, reports its annual loss widened to $14.4 million or 51 cents a share in 2008 from breakeven or nil per share for 2007. The company said its investments lost $17.9 million in 2008, compared with a net loss of $1.2 million for 2007. Bancorp is an alternative asset manager that invests in industrial and real estate companies, infrastructure and financial services sectors. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Canada out of U-20 soccer championship
Canada was eliminated from the 2009 CONCACAF Men's Under-20 Championship after a 2-1 loss to Costa Rica last night. With the loss, it's the first time in five tries the U-20 squad will not qualify for its World Cup. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Vonn tops again

American Lindsey Vonn captured the women's World Cup overall skiing title for the second straight year. Vonn won the last downhill event of the season yesterday at the World Cup finals in Sweden. The top Canadian in the race was Kelly VanderBeek of Kitchener, who finished ninth.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

SOCCER Manchester United beat Inter Milan 2-0 yesterday to help complete an English sweep into the quarter-finals of the Champions League. Arsenal's 7-6 penalty shootout win at AS Roma means all four English teams in the competition will be in next week's quarter-final draw. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	OT	P
d-Boston	43	16	9	95
d-New Jersey	43	20	3	89
d-Washington	41	21	6	88
Philadelphia	36	19	10	82
Montreal	36	24	7	79
Pittsburgh	36	26	6	78
Florida	34	24	9	77
Carolina	36	27	5	77
N.Y. Rangers	34	25	8	76
Buffalo	33	26	7	73
TORONTO	27	28	13	67
Ottawa	27	29	10	64
Atlanta	26	35	6	58
Tampa Bay	21	32	14	56
N.Y. Islanders	22	37	8	52

d-division leader

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Ottawa 3 Tampa Bay 2 (OT)
Carolina at Chicago
Vancouver at Anaheim

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT
dx-Cleveland	50	13	.794
dx-Boston	49	16	.754
d-Orlando	47	17	.734
Atlanta	37	28	.569
Miami	35	29	.547
Detroit	32	31	.508
Philadelphia	31	31	.500
Milwaukee	30	37	.448
Chicago	29	36	.446
New Jersey	28	35	.444
Charlotte	28	36	.438
Indiana	28	38	.424
New York	27	37	.422
TORONTO	23	42	.354
Washington	15	50	.231

d-division leader
x-cliched playoff spot

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 115 **TORONTO** 106
Atlanta 100 Utah 93
New Orleans 109 Washington 98
Orlando 107 Chicago 79
Miami 107 Boston 99
New York 116 Detroit 111
Minnesota 104 Memphis 79
L.A. Lakers at Houston
Oklahoma City at Denver
Dallas at Portland
New Jersey at Golden State

BASEBALL

WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Puerto Rico 5 Netherlands 0
Venezuela 5 U.S. 3
Mexico vs. Australia

Raptors deep-Sixed in Philly

NBA RESULT

Raptors 106 **76ers** 115

VS

Thaddeus Young scored a career-high 29 points, Montreal native Samuel Dalembert snapped out of his recent slump, and the Philadelphia 76ers handed the Raptors their sixth straight loss with a 115-106 victory last night.

Dalembert, who entered the night with only three blocks over the last four games, recorded his 11th double-double of the season with a season-high 19 points, 13 rebounds and four blocked shots. Young was 13-for-19 from the field for Philadelphia.

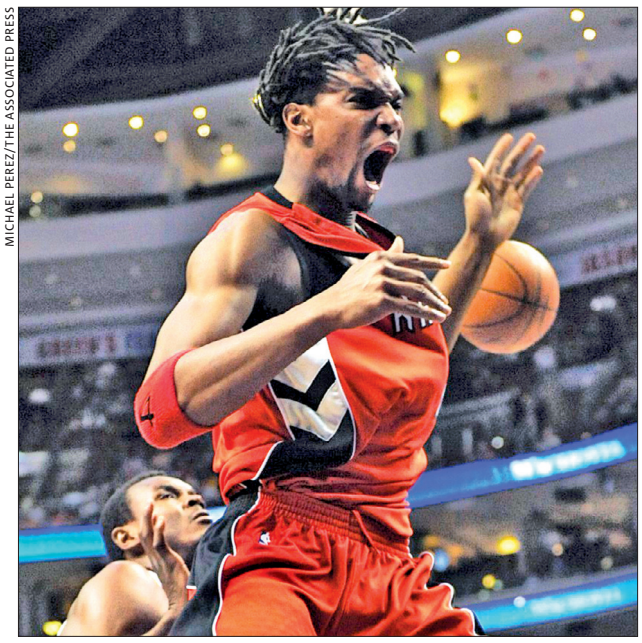
The 76ers pulled away by making 15 of 22 shots in the second quarter.

Chris Bosh was limited to 17 points for Toronto after consecutive 30-point outings. Andrea Bargnani led Toronto with 21 points, which also got 11 points off the bench from Roko Ukic.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CB4, weatherman

• Chris Bosh will join the list of celebrities filling in for retiring CTV Toronto weather specialist Dave Devall tonight on CTV News at 6.

MICHAEL PEREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Chris Bosh dunks over Samuel Dalembert last night.

Pocklington arrested, charged

CRIME Canada's formerly famous celebrity businessman and owner of hockey's Edmonton Oilers is being held behind bars in California on two charges of bankruptcy fraud.

The 67-year-old was ordered held in custody until tomorrow, where prosecutors say they will argue a judge keep him behind bars pending trial because he is a flight risk and may have access to money in offshore accounts. Hours earlier he was arrested by FBI agents at his California condo. Pocklington has pleaded not guilty to the charges and will go to trial May 5. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in U.S. federal prison.

Venezuela beats U.S. to win Toronto pool

WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

Venezuela 5 **U.S.A.** 3

VS

Venezuela will enter the second round of the World Baseball Classic on a roll after a 5-3 victory over the United States last night at the Rogers Centre.

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

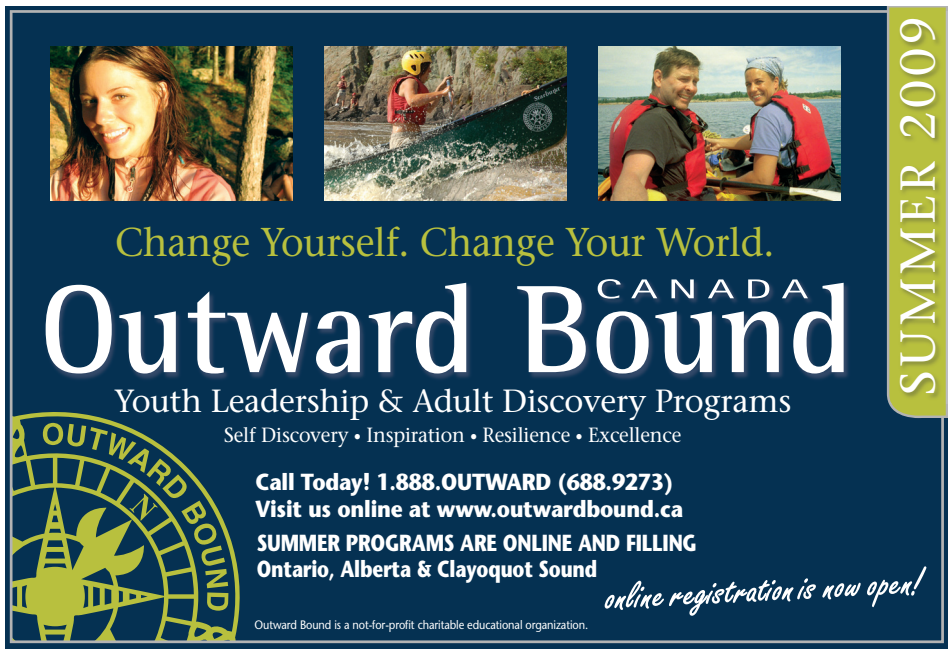
Team Venezuela mobs Henry Blanco (21) after he hit a home run off Ted Lilly last night.

Henry Blanco homered and starter Victor Zambrano threw three-plus effective innings to help Venezuela lock up top spot in Pool C and avenge a 15-6 loss to the Americans earlier in the week.

Both teams will open second-round play in Miami Saturday. Venezuela will take on the Netherlands and the Americans will play Puerto Rico, which locked up Pool D with a 5-0 win over the surprising Dutch squad.

The pro-Venezuela crowd of 12,358 got into the game in the fifth inning when Marco Scutaro's sharp single to left field cashed in Miguel Cabrera and Endy Chavez.

Venezuela finished with 12 hits, five more than the U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Pain in the butt for pitcher Erik Bedard

Seattle Mariners left-hander Erik Bedard was scratched from his scheduled Cactus League start against Kansas City yesterday because of a sore butt. Canadian Bedard was on the disabled list last year because of soreness and inflammation in his left hip. "It's more in the muscle (now)," manager Don Wakamatsu said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

They never go quietly

TheHockeyNews

Ryan Kennedy

thehockeynews.com

Will the Maple Leafs get worse from here on out? Now that the trade deadline relieved them of skilled players such as Nik Antropov and Dominic Moore, and injuries have sidelined linchpins Vesa Toskala and Tomas Kaberle, the easy answer would be yes.

But a funny thing happened to the Buds en route to the John Tavares lottery: They started putting up points in the standings. In fact, the Leafs are kind of hot right now. Thanks to a run of extra-frame contests, Toronto has earned at least one point in nine of the past 11 games, six of those being wins.

So what's a fan to do? The Leafs aren't going to make the playoffs and don't seem to be tanking.

The latter option is one many feel will help the team in the end, but here's the thing: Professional hockey players don't lie down. Walking into the Toronto dressing room after a loss is like walking into a morgue.

It's very quiet, very subdued, and the players are bummed. This fairly simple concept was put to the test recently by one beat reporter. He asked coach Ron Wilson why the bench boss had Jason Spezza's stick checked for legality near the end of Monday's loss to Ottawa, instead of earlier in the season when maybe it would have "mattered" more.

One possible reason that should have been obvious is that the Leafs recently acquired a teammate of Spezza's — Martin Gerber. All's fair in love and hockey, so why not help his new team out with insider info regarding a former teammate's blade?

Wilson never addressed that possibility (nor do I have any insider info, for that matter), instead berating the reporter on philosophical grounds.

The coach's job is to win games and Wilson's gambit gave the Leafs a power play while down a goal with just more than two minutes to play.

It's not rocket science.

One only needs to look at the recent play of rookie centre John Mitchell as proof. Since the deadline, Mitchell has seen a lot more ice time. His best game of the season was probably the March 3 overtime loss to New Jersey, where he put two goals past Martin Brodeur and generally played like a wrecking ball.

Mitchell is out there doing the job he coveted all his childhood. No kid ever runs around the driveway celebrating a last-second loss that secures better odds at a draft lottery, so why expect the guys living the dream to do it?

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Tivoli Radio

Tivoli Audio released its Spring 2009 collection recently, which included the NetWorks radio — a radio that is capable of playing any station in the world through an Internet connection. See Tivoliaudio.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Dark, academic inspiration Pg 28

Pemberton Group finds tranquility among the chaos of Bay Street with its new U Condominiums, featured in this week's Suite Talk.

Style At Home Pg 24

Tricia Guild gives some tips for great use of colour.

Homescape Pg 30

When the kids come along, decor need not be neglected.

Dinner Party 101 Pg 31

TV hosts offer advice for budget-friendly parties.

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The Seascape	4404	A	2,082	4	~~$366,990~~	$349,990	$17,000

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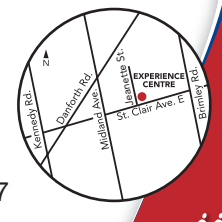

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Monarch

Decor

Read more in the April issue of STYLE AT HOME magazine.
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Lavatory decor

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HOME & STYLE Freshen up your bath with this fab '50s flashback — an original Marimekko of Finland graphic silkscreen of lilac branches. Marimekko Lehtimaja cotton shower curtain $65, Crate and Barrel, 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca. **–BRETT WALTHER**

Mirror image

Refined style sense in resin-rimmed mirror

HOME & STYLE Wreathed in a fetching resin frame, this mirror reflects a refined sense of style. Can be found at Manor, 416-544-1700.

— BRETT WALTHER

Box it up

Wood finishes for a bright, beachy look

HOME & STYLE For a splurge-worthy boost of boho chic, opt for suzani-inspired accessories. The patterns of the trendy tribal textiles are natural candidates for reinvention. Can be found at Scantrade International, 800-387-1282. **–BRETT WALTHER**

Bold colour

Few other designers embrace the entire colour palette as boldly as Tricia Guild, OBE, the creative director and founder of Designers Guild. Based in London, England, the author released her 14th book last year; Flower Sense ($40 US, Rizzoli) examines the ways in which blooms can enhance a room.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRICIA GUILD

JAMES MERRELL FROM FLOWER SENSE BY TRICIA GUILD

A design, right, direct from the pages of Tricia Guild's, left, latest book, Flower Sense.

Do the colours you love change depending on the season or the chapter of your life?

Yes. While colour is a personal choice, and there are no definite rules to follow per sé, different colours do provoke different emotions. I like to combine cooler shades, such as aqua or spring green, with hotter accents, like pink or persimmon; the contrast adds depth and a point of interest to a space. I also favour making changes seasonally. We change our clothes and what we eat, so why not make small alterations to our homes as well? That doesn't mean investing in, say, a new sofa. Hanging simple linen banners in shades of rose pink, celadon blue or acacia green creates a fresh, vital scheme for the summer months; adding accessories like blankets or cushions in rich shades of mulberry, chocolate and raspberry is perfect for the winter months.

What else influences your creations?

Travel, nature and flowers, art, the opera and my family, to name but a few. The costumes, music, stories and emotions of the opera inspired our most recent textile collection, Arabella.

–WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY LIZA FINLAY

Cook's choice **Going green — literally**

Manual dexterity
This kit pairs a salad knife with an oolu — a chopper that shreds lettuce and other vegtables. **$15, Swissmar.com.**

Jewel tone
Bar cart beauty or sideboard sparkle — this stylish acrylic-top stopper pours on the elegance. **$25, teatroverde.com.**

Snip & Strip
Snip a dill sprig garnish, shred a few basil leaves, or quick-strip rosemary stems by pulling them through the base. **$15, Williams-sonoma.com**

Water wise
Make the limited-edition Earth Month pitcher a symbol of your eco commitment. $35, Brita.ca.

GEOFFERY ROSS

— WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY JULIA ARMSTRONG

Colour aficionado dishes on why you should go blue

Got the blues? Sylvia O'Brien of Toronto-based colour consultancy Colour Theory says this moody hue is undergoing a major makeover. "Blues for 2009 are warmer," says Sylvia, noting that it's a strong yellow undertone that makes the colour appear less chilly. "These blues work very nicely with the ever-important green tones that have taken up residence in our lives."

Bay Street Blue P5005-63, Para Paints, para.com.

"A little serious, but with a sweet softness to it, like a cloudless sky in a warm climate. Perfect for bedroom walls, it looks great paired with aqua and touches of citrus green for bedding and drapes, and dark wood furniture."

Newport 30BG 44/248, CIL Paints, cil.ca.

"An airy, optimistic and therapeutic aqua blue. Its warm, ocean feel conjures up the Mediterranean — an excellent choice for a bathroom or powder room. Heck, in a powder room, you might as well paint the ceiling this colour, too!"

Dignity Blue SW6804, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

"A rich, fully saturated dark blue that feels like deep space — going on forever, deep and mysterious. I see this blue on the ceiling of a den or library with neutral walls and lots of stained wood to contrast its magnificence."

–Brett Walther

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The Rouge	13502	2,200	~~$328,990~~	$309,990	$19,000
SEMIS	**LOT#**	**SQ. FT.**	**PREV. PRICE**	**PRICE NOW**	**SAVINGS**
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The Malvern	24R	2,556	~~$421,690~~	$397,990	$23,700
The Malvern	27L	2,556	~~$421,690~~	$390,990	$30,700
The Regent	4L	2,577	~~$422,790~~	$399,990	$22,800
The Regent	6L	2,577	~~$422,790~~	$399,990	$22,800

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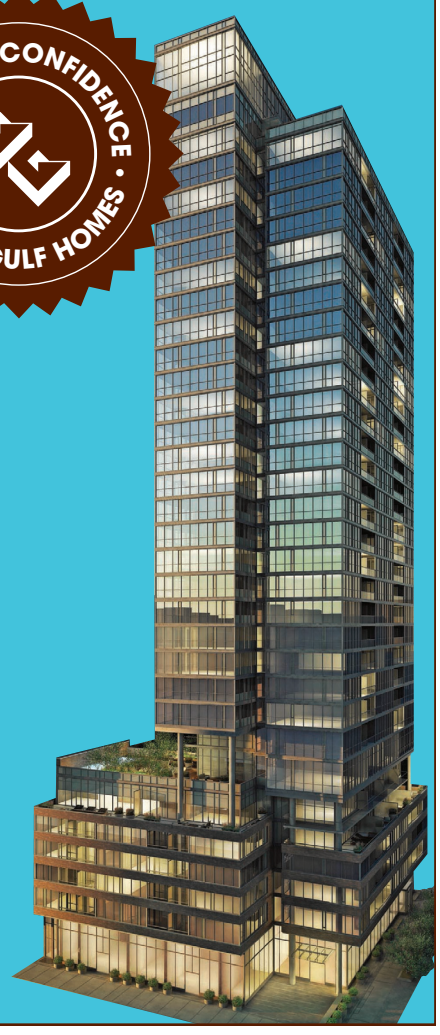

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Truth behind your realtor

Recently I've been made aware of more than a few horror stories involving less than competent realtors that extend beyond what I've heard in the past. I suppose it stands to reason that when times are tough the corners one might choose to cut are endless. As a result I've had the dubious duty of trying to resolve an increasing number of incidents in which "professionals" have acted less than professional. It appears that finding a really good realtor is harder than ever. Here are a few insights that I hope will help you find a professional that will live up to that label.

The truth is that a realtor's job extends far beyond showing you prospects — or your home to buyer prospects — and negotiating a price. Imagine buyer Veronica is searching for a home with realtor Bob. To begin, Bob should help Veronica outline her wants and needs and also establish her price comfort zone. Veronica should be aware, right off the bat, how much the homes she's looking at will cost her to carry each month, via mortgage. If Veronica is going to see homes blindly, realtor Bob has already failed to do his job as best he can.

"I've had the dubious duty of trying to resolve an increasing number of incidents in which 'professionals' have acted less than professional."

Lets assume Veronica is prepared and she decides upon a house. She asks Bob how much the home she likes, listed at $450,000, is actually worth. Bob tells her that it's listed very close to market value and so Veronica and the seller settle at $445,000. Now whether Bob is being honest or not is one thing, but the fact that Veronica was never educated, or at least given the option to be educated, is of most concern.

In actuality Veronica should have been advised by Bob to begin reviewing the area thoroughly, with his help and through property listing updates, as early in the process as possible. This would help her establish an understanding of the market and prepare her for a myriad of possibilities that could have arisen. Just because it doesn't rain when you're camping, doesn't mean you're a good camper, if you didn't go prepared for the possibility. The reality of even today's marketplace is that the best deals still go relatively quick — I've sold properties this month, for instance, within 1-2 days. If Veronica hasn't been educated on the market, she is in no position to act quickly, which means these best deals are not even on her radar.

If Bob had given Veronica comparables to look at before she made that offer of $445,000, she would have been in a better position to make an informed decision rather than going in blind. For example, if the comparables showed that while homes sold around the $445,000 mark but took an average of 45 days to sell and this home had been on the market only a week, Veronica would have done better to begin at a lower price.

The point is that Bob owes Veronica a level of effort, dedication and commitment that cannot be captured in showing a few homes and signing an offer. Too many people believe that their realtor is simply their key in the door. I believe your realtor should be your guide and your teacher in every facet of real estate that affects you. This is just one example but believe you me, it comes up so often that if this one issue could be eliminated, many more real estate buyers would end their journey that much happier.

Finally, along the same lines of offering as much help as possible, I'd like to humbly ask the feedback of you, the real estate buyer/seller, what you feel is most valuable on the real estate websites you've browsed, and what you feel has been missing from even the best ones you've seen. I will incorporate the most popular suggestions to my own redesigned site for you, your friends and family to, hopefully, educate and inform yourselves from. Always feel free to email me at amitp@rogers.com, with questions and/or comments.

Happy Hunting!

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

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Jeffrey D. Cowan

jeff@cowanandtaylor.com

Q I have a real estate agent who has shown me a number of properties; a couple of which I have made offers on but lost out. He thinks it is because I put conditions in the offers while the other purchaser puts in an unconditional offer. What are your thoughts on this?

A Assuming you are interested in purchasing a house rather than a condo, there is one condition that I would always suggest. The offer should be conditional on a home inspection, generally at the cost of the purchaser.

I actually had a buyer who had this in their offer, which was accepted and then decided not to have the home inspected. I was absolutely astonished when he told me this because the inspection gives you a perfect opportunity to get to know your house and to be made aware of any deficiencies that a qualified home inspector might be able to point out.

A second condition that is often used is making the offer conditional upon the purchaser obtaining financing.

Often times, buyers get pre-approved so they think that they do not need this clause. First, the pre-approval must be in writing otherwise you are setting yourself up for a potential accepted offer but you don't have the money to buy the property.

A third condition that is frequently used is review of a condo's Status Certificate by the purchaser's lawyer. This is a statutorily regulated document that sets out such items as:

- Is the vendor in arrears of their common expenses;
- Are there any outstanding law suits or judgments against the condo corporation and;
- Are there adequate reserves to deal with large repair items such as leaky roofs or parking garage refurbishment.

Almost 100 per cent of all banks require the purchaser to obtain and have reviewed the status certificate.

Jeffrey D. Cowan is the principal of Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & Solicitors, jeff@cowanandtaylor.com. The information contained in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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Save two per cent on condominiums under construction in fabulous locations from Canada's most experienced builder, Monarch. Discover condominium value, choice and confidence beyond belief at Monarch Corporation's seven towers that are now well under construction. For a limited time, take two per cent off the purchase price at Nautilus at Waterview in Etobicoke, Quay West on Toronto's waterfront, Twenty Gothic at High Park, EQ1 and EQ2 in Scarborough, Legacy at Heron's Hill in North York and Vibe at Liberty Village.

What an incredible opportunity to save thousands in these highly successful condominiums that are well on their way to being completed, three offering move-ins this year. And enjoy the confidence of knowing that Monarch is Canada's oldest builder and the Canadian division of the world's fifth-largest home builder. Why not buy from the most experienced in the industry? You will also enjoy the peace of mind that comes from Monarch's high referral rate — much higher than industry standards.

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If you'd like to live on the water's edge, Monarch offers two fabulous choices: Quay West at Tip Top and Nautilus at Waterview. Both offer easy access to the Martin Goodman Trail and scenic views of the city and water. Quay West is a contemporary building with a central landscaped courtyard, plus a private courtyard in the Quay West Club amenity space. Suites range from 499 to 1,613 sq. ft. and start from the $200,000's.

Quay West at Tip Top is one of the condominiums that Monarch is offering up with a two-per-cent discount off the purchase price.

Nautilus is the fourth building in the popular Waterview urban resort community on Etobicoke's Humber Bay Shores. The Nautilus Club will offer a special occasion/party room opening onto a garden complete with resort inspired cabanas and barbecues, and much more. Available suites range from 562 to 1,040 sq. ft. and start from $200,000's.

Twenty Gothic is an eight-storey condominium across from High Park, minutes to Bloor West Village, and steps from the subway. Club Twenty includes a designer-decorated special occasion/party room that opens onto a landscaped terrace with a barbecue. Available suites range from 851 to 1,127 sq. ft. and start from the $400,000's. Move in this year!

Quay West, Nautilus and Twenty Gothic are showcased in the Presentation Gallery at 68 Marine Parade Dr. in Etobicoke. Call 416-495-3544.

For the utmost in convenience, EQ1 and EQ2 at Scarborough Town Centre can't be beat. Move in this year and live steps from the SRT station, Highway 401, and the Scarborough Town Centre. Suites in EQ1 range from 618 to 1,161 sq. ft. and start from the $190,000's. At EQ2, suites range from 502 to 915 sq. ft. and start from $190,000's. The Red Presentation Centre is at 60 Brian Harrison Way. Call 416-495-3582.

Feeling the urban vibe? Then Vibe at Liberty Village may be perfect for you. Liberty Village is home to boutiques, cafés, galleries, pubs and nightclubs, and is a five-minute walk from the Exhibition Grounds and Lake Ontario. The building's amenities include The VIBE Club – Feel the Energy. Suites range from 572 to 909 sq. ft. and are priced from $269,990. Call 416-591-2259 for an appointment.

Legacy in master-planned Heron's Hill is a 25-storey tower that will feature an adjacent five-storey mid-rise building and landscaped courtyard. Residents will have shuttle service to the Don Mills subway at nearby Fairview Mall. Suites range from 468 to 886 sq. ft.; prices begin from the $170,000s. The Sales Centre is at 265 Yorkland Rd. Call 416-494-7679.

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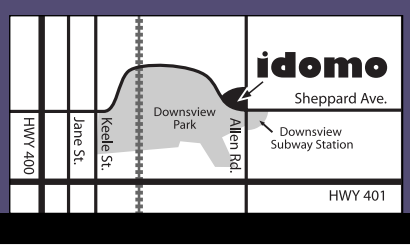

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Finding order in chaos

Inspired by the nearby University of Toronto, designer Andrea Kantelberg went for a sophisticated look when designing the model suite at Pemberton Group's U Condominiums.

Suite Talk

VANESSA GRECO
for Metro Canada

Amidst the bustle of Bay Street, Pemberton Group has found serenity through sustainable design with U Condominiums.

"There's a tranquil feeling we wanted to evoke," said designer Andrea Kantelberg of Kantelberg Design. "This is your home. You're coming in from a chaotic world."

Inspired by the academic atmosphere at the nearby University of Toronto, Kantelberg used a subtle colour palette to create a quiet, sophisticated space. The calm spectrum of charcoal, espresso and white becomes a backdrop for any personal touches homeowners wish to add.

Balance is achieved in the kitchen area, where block-like stools emulate the white island in front of them. The flush-to-cabinet design of the fridge and pantry maintains clean lines in the room.

"This is an open-concept space. Nobody wants to sit in their living room and look at a fridge, so it's concealed," said Kantelberg, who chose a water-based wood stain for the dark brown kitchen cabinets.

In the bathroom, the same stain is used for shelving beneath a vanity mirror. Charcoal grey tiling and bone-white countertops give the area a soothing spa-like feel. A teak towel ladder — made in the geometric style of the kitchen stools — anchors the room. The piece has an oil finish, which Kantelberg calls "intentional imperfection."

"We don't want things to look like they belong in a furniture showroom," she said. "Minimal finishes help establish that quiet sophistication."

Suites at U Condominiums range from 542 to 1,477 square feet. Prices range from the mid-$300s to over $1 million. To register visit ucondominiums.ca or call 905-326-4100.

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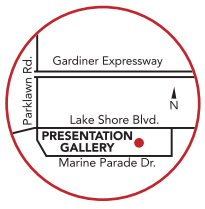

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Decor need not suffer with kids

HomeScape

When children arrive on the scene, does stylish home decor have to die?

Some parents think so; they are resigned to concentrating only on making their homes child-friendly and delay their plans to spruce up their decor until the kids leave. Or they buy homely and inexpensive furniture so whatever damage the children inflict, they could not possibly make them uglier.

But why live like a savage for a decade or possibly longer? To be sure, your family home needs to be child-friendly, so children know they are treasured members of the household. But at the same time, your home is also for you. It should be both joyful in its role as the centre of a busy family life, but also capable of soothing those jangled adult nerves with beauty, grace and style.

The most visible killer of stylish home decor is too many toys. I know families with toys that number in the hundreds. Reflect on how many toys your children actually play with on a regular basis and downsize.

Keep in mind that the roster of toys will be ever-changing, as your child grows older, so keep the collection trimmed down. Instead, consider setting up a toy exchange with neighbours and friends to keep the toy collection novel, rather than keeping a huge collection of toys, some of which the children will probably outgrow before you can even read the assembly instructions.

When you've whittled the collection down to a manageable size, establish a place for the toys, such as a stylish chest or bureau. Some people take the approach of keeping toys in the playroom, or the child's bedroom. But toys creep, so I think a better approach might be to provide a neat container (perhaps a stylish ottoman) for a few toys in different rooms in the house.

And teach your children to put things away. Easier said than done, I know. But kindergarten classroom teachers do it, and so can you. Use labels with words or pictures so they will know precisely what should go where. And be prepared to enforce the rule.

For flooring or upholstery fabric, keep in mind the golden rule that dark colours and splotchy patterns hide dirt. Make your life easier by choosing these kinds of patterns or colours. And go for scatter rugs on hard flooring, because cleanups are easier and replacing rugs is much less expensive than replacing wall-to-wall carpeting.

Wherever children are, spills and stains will happen, so save yourself a lot of sponging and fretting and invest in washable slipcovers, especially for upholstered chairs in the dining room. Also have rules about where food can be eaten.

Older children and teenagers will benefit from early training, but may backslide. In the bathroom, try colour-coding towels so you'll know who to call regarding the cast-off towel on the floor. But towels, as well as coats, hats, boots, clothes, homework, dirty laundry, sporting equipment, foods and appliances used by children, books and toys need to have a home. Discreet labels continue to be a fine idea so there can be no disagreement about where things go. Finally, constant reminders seem to be a fact of life for older children. They may not appreciate it now, of course, but they will.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Art, et al

- As for beautiful things such as art pieces, do not deny yourself. Just make sure your shelving is high enough to keep it away from little hands.

Though it may be a trial, your decor can survive when you have children if you follow some rules.

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Entertaining on a dime

VANESSA GRECO
for Metro Canada

Even without valet service, waiters or laminated menus, your home can be the perfect dinner destination.

"It's possible to entertain guests without breaking the bank," said Corbin Tomaszeski, executive chef at Holt's Café, speaking at the National Home Show.

Taking the stage with Cheryl Torrenueva, fellow host of HGTV's Restaurant Makeover, the duo showed audience members how to plan a classy affair with limited funds.

Look like a big spender

With less money, your table can still look like a million bucks. Swanky-looking supplies can be found at bargain basement prices.

"If it doesn't look expensive, don't touch it," said Torrenueva who visited a dollar store for plastic wine flutes instead of crystal ones.

Prep for success

Budgets aren't just for bank accounts. When throwing a soiree, time is of the essence.

Serve with style

Forget champagne fountains and five-piece bands. When throwing a fancy fete, it's the little things that count.

"Whether it's with a garnish, place cards or napkin rings — just put some effort into details," said Torrenueva.

Serve dinner on square plates, she suggested. The unconventional shape is a chic and cost-effective way to enhance dinner.

Stimulate the senses

Conversation isn't the only thing guests should participate in. Setting atmosphere at a dinner party involves engaging all five senses.

"When putting a dish together, look at texture, colour and aroma," said Tomaszeski, warning not to use scented candles, the smell might overpower the meal.

Choose forgiving food

Culinary rookies can still hold a dinner party without the threat of a botched meal.

"Make dishes that are forgiving," said Tomaszeski, suggesting prime-rib and salmon. "The higher the fat content the longer you can cook it without it drying out."

Pick crowd-pleasers

While guests might not always agree with your gourmet experiments, some dinner party staples never go out of style.

"You can get some really decent wine for $10," said Tomaszeski. "I try to refrain from the two-

Hosts of HGTV's Restaurant Makeover Cheryl Torrenueva and Corbin Tomaszeski offer some tips on how to entertain at home with your wallet in mind.

ones in the shape of a cat or in a box."

Make it personal

Custom playlists, place cards and individual floral arrangements are amongst many ways a large gathering can become more intimate. Dinner parties are enjoyable when hosts key into their guests' interests.

Furniture companies give salvaged items second life

OLD TREES Worn down, ravaged by the elements or afflicted by disease — but worth salvaging. There is an afterlife for damaged or unwanted trees and old wooden buildings beyond the scrap heap.

The recent Interior Design Show showcased companies that specialize in crafting new furniture and woodworking pieces from salvaged materials.

In the Toronto area alone, about 9,000 municipal trees are removed each year because they have reached maturity, been infested by insects or disease, or to make way for development.

Urban Tree Salvage uses such trees as base materials to create one-of-a-kind pieces ranging from dining and console tables to beds, cabinetry and vanities.

Family tree of your furniture

- If the company knows the specific origin of a tree in one of its products, it will let customers know. But the city arborist initially stockpiles many of them at a site, so it's usually impossible to track a specific location beyond establishing its roots were in Toronto.

"Our goal is every tree that we salvage from the urban core will potentially save a tree coming down from the natural forest," said Melissa Neist, sales and marketing manager for Urban Tree Salvage.

"If we can kind of shift the mindframe of individuals away from, 'Well, let's go clear-cut a forest,' well, why do that when there's already trees having to come down because of urban development, insects, disease," she added. "They're coming down, why not use them? It just makes sense."

Neist said the company also provides raw materials to contractors, designers and architects, as well as to the public.

"It's like a relationship they can build with the piece because you never know — it could be right down the street from you, it could be a park down the road," she said. "Knowing that it's local, it gives them a good feeling."

Yuill McGregor likely never imagined when he was taking down a fertilizer plant for a friend in Bradford, Ont., some 20 years ago that it would mark his first foray into the antique wood business.

"When I took it down, I came across these monster timbers and they just looked like big old hunks of dirty wood and I thought , 'Well, at the minimum, you can make a bridge out of these darn things,'" he said. "It wasn't until I was cutting one with a chainsaw and I was like, 'Geez, these things are hard, and they're interesting looking wood."

As founder of Northonsixty, the use of salvaged woods is among the central planks of his business.

All of the company's water-recovered and recycled woods have been sourced within 300 kilometres of their shop in Dwight, Ont.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cantilever coffee table from of Urban Tree Salvage is shown in this photo. There is an afterlife for damaged or unwanted trees and old wooden buildings beyond the scrap heap.

There will be shrinkage
Cabbage loses a lot of water in cooking, so what seems like a large amount reduces down. To avoid the pungent odour often associated with cabbage, cook it uncovered in lots of water for a short period of time. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"Choose a small to medium cabbage that is heavy for its size, firm and compact with unblemished leaves." BARB HOLLAND/FOR METRO CANADA

Fresh
A whole head of cabbage will keep for a week or longer stored unwashed in the refrigerator. Remove the outer leaves and rinse just before slicing.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Courtney Scott tried eating for free in New York city by picking up free samples from gourmet grocery stores and markets.

Eating for free in New York

AMY ZIMMER
Metro World News

FOOD Rachael Ray eats on $40 a day. Courtney Scott tried it for $0.

The slim 27-year-old said she spent last week living off the fat of the urban landscape: Free samples from gourmet groceries and farmers markets.

"These are trying times," said the marketing consultant, who had the idea while munching free animal crackers at the Union Square Whole Foods with an unemployed friend.

"A whole segment of New Yorkers are probably pinching pennies for the first time," she said.

She recorded on her blog — A Broad'r View — her days chasing down brownies at Chelsea Market, tomato bruschetta in the Garden of Eden, and sopressata at Faicco's Pork Store.

"There are drawbacks," Scott said. "It's pretty antisocial. New Yorkers have a culture of, 'Let's meet for a drink or food.'"

She cheated with wine. "I'm a bit of a wino," she admitted. But at West Village bistro, Dell'anima, she scored free olives, braised fennel, and chickpeas with her $13 happy hour glass of Sicilian Nero d'Avola.

"It's more of a mainstream freeganism," she said.

Cabbages: Head of the class

À **la** carte

Barb Holland

metronews.ca/alacarte

Green is the most common type of cabbage and popular for its crunchiness and mild flavour.

Economical and versatile, this humble winter storage vegetable stretches a long way. Whether green, red or savoy, this member of the Brassica family is related to kale, broccoli and cauliflower.

Green is the most common type of cabbage and popular for its crunchiness and mild flavour (except when overcooked). Red cabbage takes longer to mature than green cabbage, so they usually aren't quite as tender. The colour of red cabbage can run when cooked and take on a bluish tinge. To prevent this, cook with a bit of lemon juice or vinegar.

The leaves of a Savoy cabbage are looser and more crinkled than regular cabbage and have a more tender texture. The flavour is milder and sweeter.

Colcannon or Bubble and Squeak

In Ireland it is called colcannon; in Britain, bubble and squeak for the sound it makes as it cooks. Whatever the name, it was a customary way to use up vegetables left over from Sunday dinner. Good with corned beef, ham or sausages, the amounts can vary to suit your leftovers or taste. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter
- 3 green onions, sliced
- 2 to 3 cups (500 to 750 ml) cooked green cabbage
- 2 to 3 cups (500 to 750 ml) mashed potatoes
- Salt and pepper

METHOD:
Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onions and cook until softened, a few minutes. Add cabbage and toss with onions. Add potatoes, breaking up with wooden spoon to combine with cabbage and onions. Season to taste with salt and pepper and cook until heated through, 5 to 10 minutes.

Cabbage Tips:
- To slice cabbage, cut head into quarters, remove core and slice with a sharp chef's knife, a mandoline or food processor fitted with a slicing disc.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Riding the Recession

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Its lunch and dinner specials serve up great value in tall portions — a favourite being the Steak and Shrimp dinner available from noon to midnight, Monday to Friday, for $14.99.

Many entrees sneak in under $10 and its fajitas are the sizzling star of its comfort food lineup.

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Irish spirit

Since only one quarter of me can trace itself back to the Emerald Isle, my Irish eyes usually just smile when a new U2 album gets released (which coincidentally was earlier this month) and on Saint Patrick's Day.

Though no stranger to the making of great booze I can't imagine that any Irishman would disagree that his homeland's liquid lord is Guinness Stout: A tall, dark beauty that — thanks to the addition of roasted barley to the initial pre-mashed malt — offers a flavour that's both dense and delicious.

More than two million pints will be poured in Canadian pubs next Tuesday — maybe more considering it's the ale's 250th anniversary.

At home you can still drink like you're in Dublin thanks to **Guinness' innovative Pub Draught ($11.25 - $11.95)**. Each can in this 4-pack has a capsule inside filled with a blend of nitrogen and beer that gives the brew a thick, creamy head which pretty much equals the on-tap option.

If you're looking to celebrate with something a little bit stiffer try a glass of **Jameson Irish Whiskey ($29.95 - $29.99)**: A smooth, triple-distilled grain spirit that's great on the rocks or mixed with ginger ale, cola or apple juice. Sláinte Mhaith.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Canadian Living recipe of the month

Pasta with Green Beans, Potatoes and Pesto

INGREDIENTS:
- 8 oz (250 g) green beans, halved crosswise
- 10 oz (300 g) penne rigate pasta
- 10 oz (300 g) mini red-skinned potatoes, scrubbed and quartered

Pesto:
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) toasted pine nuts
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) shredded Parmesan cheese
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 cup (250 ml) packed fresh basil leaves
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- Pinch pepper

METHOD:
In large pot of boiling salted water, cook green beans until tender-crisp, about 4 minutes. With slotted spoon, transfer to bowl.

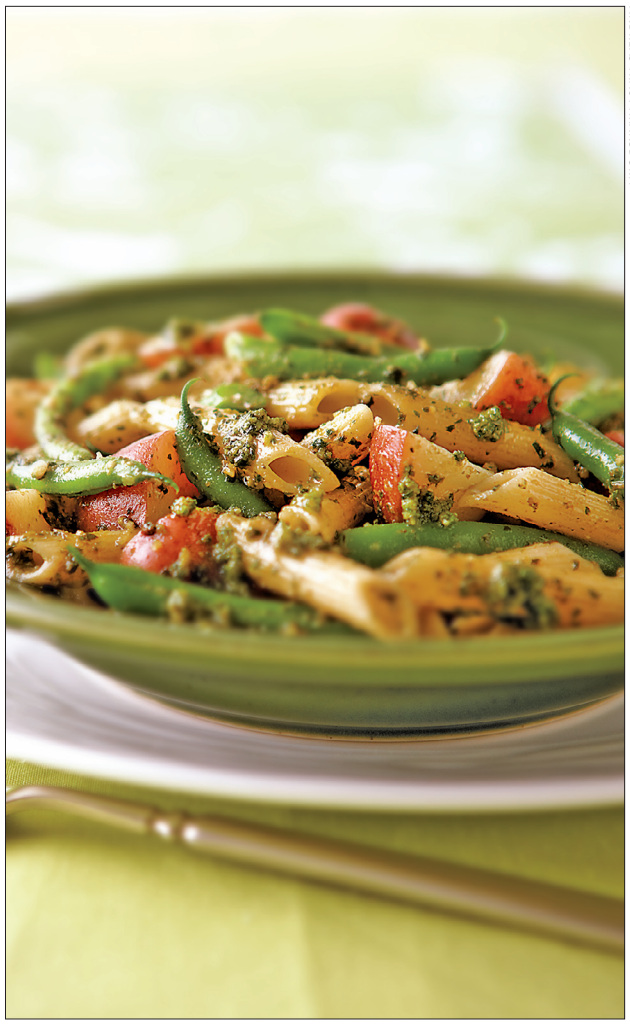
In same pot of boiling water, cook pasta until al dente, about 10 minutes. Drain and return to pot, reserving 1/2 cup (125 ml) of the cooking liquid.

Meanwhile, in separate saucepan of boiling salted water, cover and cook potatoes until tender, about 10 minutes. Drain well.

Pesto: Meanwhile, in food processor, pulse together pine nuts, Parmesan cheese and garlic until smooth. Add basil, oil, salt and pepper; pulse until smooth. Add to pasta.

Add green beans, potatoes and reserved cooking liquid; stir to coat.

online
For more Tested-Till-Perfect recipes, visit canadianliving.com



ANDREAS TRAUTTMANSDORFF

For more great recipes, visit metronews.ca.

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Wunderkind at Paris Fashion Week
For his Fall 2009/Winter 2010 Wunderkind collection, Wolfgang Joop drew inspiration from the abstract art movement and the photography of Gregor Torzs. It included dresses with graphic prints featuring red, green and blue squares. **KENYA HUNT/METRO WORLD NEWS**

Style

Red is the new black

As the fall/winter 2009 Paris collections unfold, black continues its death grip on the runways, from the outrageous puffy black gowns at Junya Watanabe to the dark elegant suits at Lanvin and the black rocker dresses at Balmain. But there is a whisper of hope that red may be positioning itself for a comeback. Red, the symbolic colour of economic failure, is bleeding through the ubiquitous black. You have to look very closely, but it's there. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

The best of...

Paris Fashion Week was a burst of creativity. Here are some of the highlights

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EMANUEL UNGARO

MANISH ARORA

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

GETTY IMAGES

MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHANEL

Emanuel Ungaro

Emanuel Ungaro sent out a rainbow of high-hemmed polka dots in his fall-winter ready-to-wear collection targeted at the "perpetual 30-year-old." Short pleated bubble skirts in electric blue, orange, purple and the label's hallmark fuchsia bounced enticingly as the models careened down the runway. Celebrity stylist Rachel Zoe said the collection "has Kate Hudson and Cameron Diaz written all over." —THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chanel

When one thinks of fuzzy knits, Chanel doesn't normally come to mind. And yet there they were — a cozy, pink knit sweater dress and matching leggings or a massive ivory bow attached to a bolero cardigan with voluminous sleeves — sandwiched between Karl Lagerfeld's edgy, body-skimming takes on the classic tweed Chanel suit. —KENYA HUNT

Manish Arora

Arora is having a big moment thanks to M.I.A. who wore one of his dresses on the red carpet at the Grammys. Glittery tiger heads appeared as three dimensional shoulder accents on the opening dress, while graphic print dresses featured flying dolphins. And that's barely scratching the surface. His colors — emerald green, violet, hot pink, yellow, brown and black — were equally as eye-popping. It was fantastical and fun. —KENYA HUNT

YVES SAINT LAURENT

Alexander McQueen

McQueen kicked up his flamboyant showmanship umpteen notches in a series of exaggerated looks that were equal parts vintage couture, drag ball and Japanese horror film. The electrifying collection featured exquisitely constructed gowns in bold shapes and hues that rebel against the down economy. —KENYA HUNT

Yves Saint Laurent

Stefano Pilati's cool, empowered fall collection shifted away from the hyper-feminine. Its monotone palette highlights each garment's anything but boring design details. —KENYA HUNT

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Guillaume Côté and Heather Ogden in *Romeo and Juliet*. Photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

*On select dates and sections.

FOUR SEASONS CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Celebrity influences
According to a recent poll by Old Navy, celebrities significantly influence the way Canadians dress with one in five (22 per cent) admitting to buying something because a celebrity has worn it and 35 per cent wishing they could dress just like a star. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Fashion with heart

Celebs model red dresses for Heart Truth fundraiser

JENNIFER YANG
for Metro Canada

Nothing gets the heart pounding quite like a gorgeous woman in a stunning red dress.

And next Tuesday (March 17), that's exactly what the Heart and Stroke Foundation is banking on with their second annual Heart Truth Fashion Show.

On day two of Toronto's LG Fashion Week, the catwalk will turn into a platform for raising awareness of heart disease and stroke in women.

Once again featured models for the Heart Truth will be Canadian celebs. This year's lineup includes Kreesha Turner, Sass Jordan and Olympic skater Elizabeth Manley, all of whom will be channeling their very best Jessica Rabbit as they flaunt a sexy red dress, the official symbol of the Heart Truth campaign.

Each dress will be one of 22 original creations by Canadian designers including Andy Thé-Anh, Joeffer Caoc and Pink Tartan.

For Kelly Freeman and Rory Lindo, the Toronto duo behind Damzels in this Dress, the cause has a personal resonance; Lindo's grandmother suffered a stroke at a young age and Freeman lost her father to heart attack.

"The statistic is one in three women will be affected by heart disease and here's two women standing right here who've had their immediate family affected," Lindo said.

The Damzels' interpretation of the little red dress is a full-skirted satin number with a puff sleeve bolero. Modeling their crimson frock is actress Tara Spencer-Nairn of Corner Gas, who also happens to live around the corner from Freeman and Lindo's Queen Street boutique.

"It's like fashion with a cause, but for me, it's also supporting my community," said Spencer-Nairn. "It's drawing attention to Canadian designers and it's also drawing attention to the Heart Truth."

Spencer-Nairn is a two-time runway veteran, while others like Erin Karpluk, star of CBC's Being Erica, will be walking the runway for the first time. She said the campaign has already helped debunk some of her own misconceptions about heart disease.

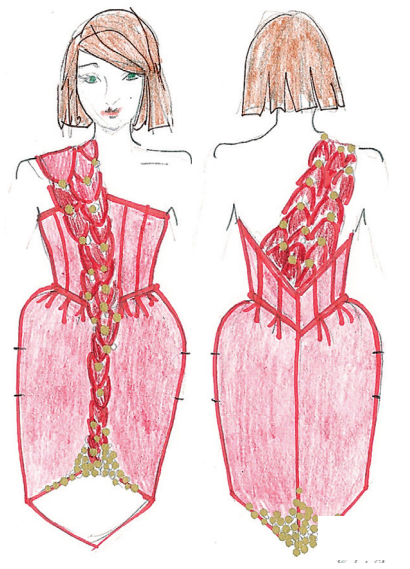
"I learned that one in three women die of heart disease, which I was just floored by," Karpluk said. "Until then I thought 'Oh, I'm a small girl, I have low blood pressure. I don't have to worry.'"

Karpluk will be dressed by Montreal-based designer Eugenia Leavitt, who's created a silk dress in fire-engine red with gold beading and intricate feather detailing.

"I wanted to make it really a one of a kind dress," Leavitt said. "Just to show a woman going for it and out there and sending a message and being very strong."

For more information, visit thehearttruth.ca.

Eugenia Leavitt design



JORDAN DUMKA PHOTO

Actress Erin Karpluk of CBC's Being Erica series will be modelling a dress by Montreal designer Eugenia Leavitt in Tuesday's Heart Truth Fashion Show (see sketch, left).

Upcoming

- Look out for more Toronto Fashion Week coverage in next week's Metro pages.
- Also, visit us online at metronews.ca next week to read Flare magazine editor-in-chief Lisa Tant's blog on Toronto Fashion Week runway trends.

Fashion in brief

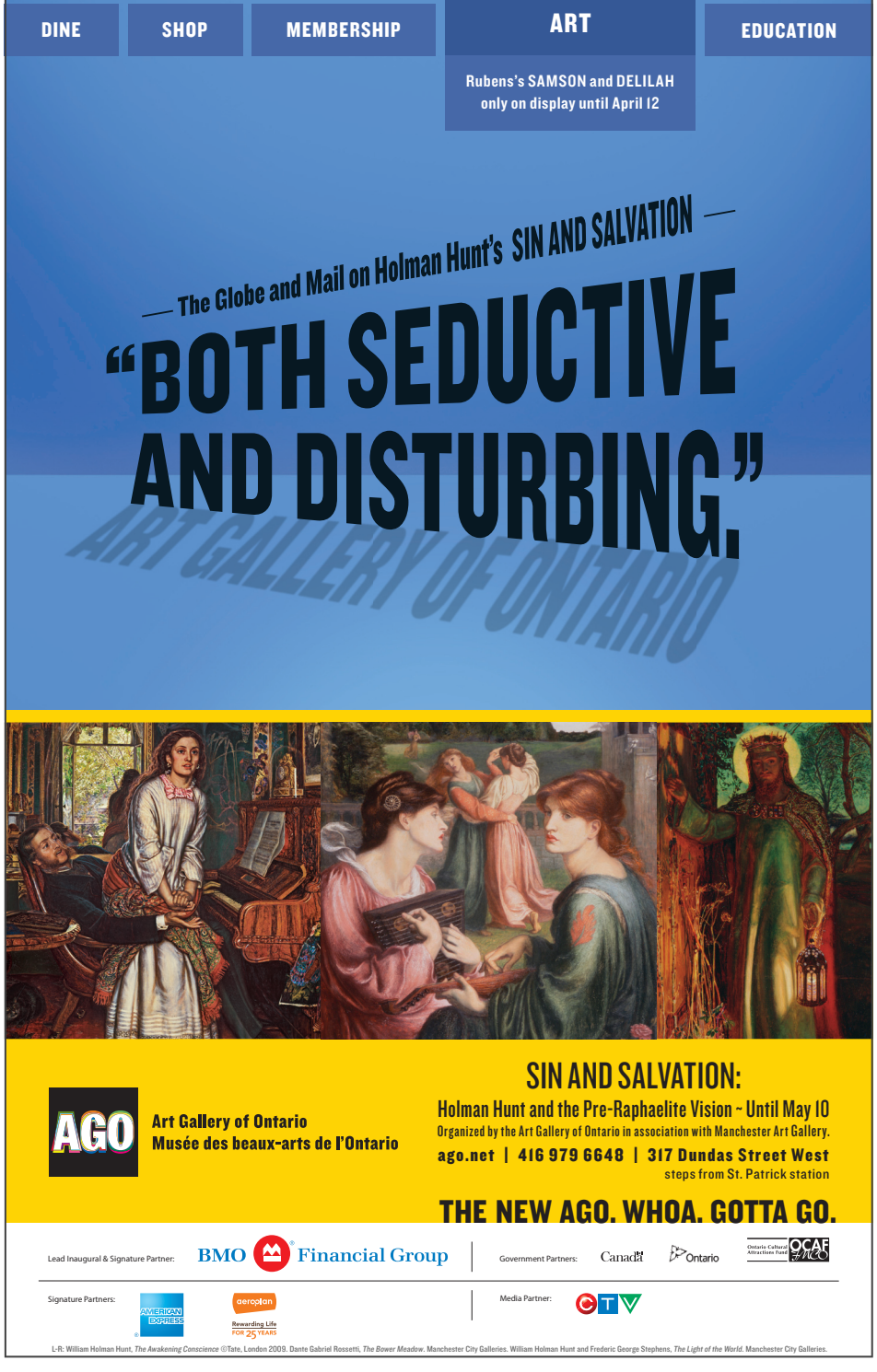
TRENDS As Paris Fashion Week wraps up, here are a round-up of the trends to watch out for:
1 - Grown up glamour
2 - Not-so-basic black
3 - Strong, bold shoulders
4 - Masculine, tailored trousers
5 - Career girl suits
KENYA HUNT/METRO WORLD NEWS

"IT" GIRL Every season, in every major fashion city, there is always one girl who turns up front row at a slew of shows. In Paris, it's Beth Ditto, the front woman for The Gossip. She also appeared on the cover of Love magazine a few weeks ago.
KENYA HUNT/METRO WORLD NEWS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Read Paris Fashion Week reviews, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle



No more Lethal Weapon films

Lethal Weapon 5 will not be made. Plans for a new instalment in the franchise have been axed, reportedly because original star Mel Gibson didn't want to return to the movies, supposedly because previous director Richard Donner would not be behind the camera. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

Black Star

She has already debuted her fashion line and now Avril Lavigne is set to launch her own fragrance, Black Star. The singer signed a deal with Procter and Gamble to produce a range of toiletries. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Idol makes radio-friendly return

New music this week from Kelly Clarkson, Chris Cornell and Handsome Furs

Kelly **Clarkson**

Album: All I Ever Wanted
Label: RCA/Sony
Rating: ●●½

KELLY CLARKSON HAD the nerve on her 2007 album, My December, to buck the industry experts (read Clive Davis) by making a record dominated by her own darkly edged songs. Like a self-fulfilling prophecy, the album tanked. Well, Kelly learned her lesson and she's back with a team of A-list producers and writers (including Katy Perry and American Idol judge Kara Dioguardi) for her fourth album, All I Ever Wanted. Every song is radio-ready, a smash single waiting to happen. The opening track, My Life Would Suck Without You, is nothing but Since You've Been Gone with different lyrics. Kelly is defiant in I Do Not Hook Up, vulnerable on Cry, in control on Don't Let Me Stop You and angry on Whyyawannabringmedown. We could go on but I'm sure you're getting the picture. A different emotion for every track, all sung with that great big voice of hers. It's all fine. But at least on My December she was willing to take a risk. Poor Kelly. She just can't make anybody happy.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Music**Reviews**

Julie **Doiron**

Album: I Can Wonder What you Did With Your Day
Label: Endearing Records/Fontana North
Rating: ●●●

JULIE DOIRON RETURNS to her electric roots with ex-Eric's Trip bandmate Rick White handling bass and production duties while Fred Squire (Calm Down It's Monday) handles drums. Heavily distorted electric guitar and bass bring a sense of foreboding to Doiron's strangely upbeat lyrics and childlike melodies, especially on standout tracks like Spill Yer Lungs, Heavy Snow and Consolation Prize. Yet when left to herself like on opening track, The Life of Dreams, or the closer, Glad To Be Alive, Doiron's minimalism is simply silly. Minimalism shouldn't necessarily be equated with art. Sometimes its just childlike.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Chris **Cornell**

Album: Scream
Label: Universal
Rating: ●½

CHRIS CORNELL HAS been making music for about two decades, but his new album, Scream, reaches a milestone that he's managed to avoid — he's finally created one of the worst albums of the year. Why in God's name would he team up with Nelly Furtado-producer Timbaland is anyone's guess. The result is a schizophrenic record of electrobeats, dance-club melodies, and the occasional rap — genres the former Soundgarden signer should stay far away from. If anything this is more of a Timbaland disc featuring Chris Cornell than it is the other way around.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

GETTY IMAGES

All I Ever Wanted is the new album from Kelly Clarkson.

Handsome **Furs**

Album: Face Control
Label: Sub Pop/Outside
Rating: ●●●●

WHILE WOLF PARADE might have more buzz, its singer Dan Boeckner's other band, Handsome Furs, where he really shines. Along with wife Alexei Perry, this Montreal-based duo churn out a frenetic mix of synth heavy, distortion drenched rock. It's a huge improvement over their debut, Plague Park — it's louder, catchier, focused, slightly cheerier and far more accessible to the average indie fan. Everything is fantastic here, but it's the Springsteen-esque Talking Hotel Arbat Blues that'll really win you over.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Razorlight

Album: Slipway Fires
Label: Mercury/Universal
Rating: ●●●½

THIS ALBUM GOT the crap kicked out of it by the critics when it was released last fall in Britain where Razorlight is perceived by detractors as pretenders to a throne that should still be occupied by the Libertines. Razorlight frontman Johnny Borrell has been pilloried for taking the band in a mainstream rock direction. But on this side of the ocean, Razorlight's third album just sounds like sound, hook-laden rock. The band does have a knack for it, after all; some of it's cliched and derivative, some of it's overwrought, but much of it is also brilliant.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

On the web

There's more online at metronews.ca/music:

- we review the new album Crazy Power from Josh Reichmann Oracle Band
- Links to this week's reviewed music

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The Rebecca witch project
Rebecca Romijn has lined up a new role, playing the lead sorceress in ABC's Eastwick pilot. It is based on the John Updike novel The Witches of Eastwick. TVGUIDE.COM

John Roberts honoured

CNN anchor inducted into Canadian broadcast hall of fame

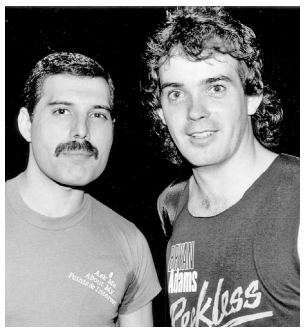
BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

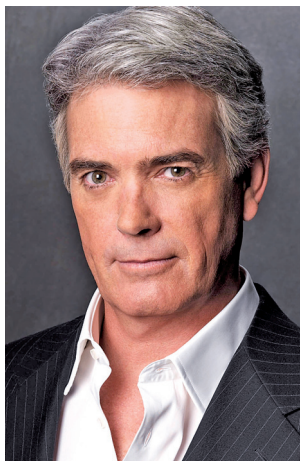
From the fury of hurricane Katrina to the chaos of Iraq to the pulse-pounding energy of Live Aid — John Roberts has seen it all.

The co-anchor of CNN's American Morning and Toronto native will be lauded for his work today at Canadian Music Week. The veteran broadcaster of 34 years will be inducted into the Broadcast Industry Hall of Fame during the Canadian Music Industry Awards Gala at the Fairmont Royal York. Roberts looks back fondly on his comparatively more peaceful home and native land.

"I miss my family and Canada's wide open spaces," says Roberts. "I suffered a bit of culture shock when I first started working in the U.S. It gets said down here that Canadians are a kind of decaffeinated American. Things can move much faster, especially in New York where I am."

Canadians may recognize Roberts, 52, from his earlier days as host of Canada AM from 1990 to 1992 and as a MuchMusic personality during its infancy, when he co-hosted The New Music from 1979 to 1985.





Roberts, above, with Queen's Freddie Mercury during his days at MuchMusic and, right, in his current role as host of CNN's American Morning.

"The bulk of my career has been in news, but because of the exposure people do remember the MuchMusic days," he said. "We were launching something brand new that was exciting for people. No one really remembers me from radio though. I suppose it's because that happened during the cretaceous period."

They were not-so-humble beginnings to a career that reads like a chronicle of the past 17 years of world history. As a reporter and anchor for both CBS and CNN for that time, Roberts was embedded with U.S. Marines during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. He reported on the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict of 2006, the Oklahoma City, Atlanta Olympics and London bombings, the deaths of Pope John Paul II and Princess Diana and hurricane Katrina. He's also interviewed some of the most influential world leaders of our time, including former U.S. presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Though objectivity is the cardinal rule of good journalism, Roberts can't deny that seeing humanity at its best and worst affects him personally. He points to the aftermath of Katrina as an event that shocked, saddened and inspired him.

"You're there as an observer, but you wouldn't be human if it didn't affect you in some way," he says. "Now unlike them, at the end of the story, you get on an airplane and you go back home. But you take with you a perspective of the story that you wouldn't have unless you immersed yourself in it."

Canadian Music Week

Follow the latest on Canadian Music Week by reading our blog at metronews.ca

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McCarthy joins Gossip Girl spinoff

Andrew McCarthy has been cast in Lily, the CW's tentatively titled Gossip Girl prequel spinoff, says the Hollywood Reporter. McCarthy will play teenage Lily Rhodes' father, Rick, who is a music biz exec. TVGUIDE.COM

British actor Alice Eve was nervous about her role as a woman who trades sex for legal immigrant status in Crossing Over.

Brit blond's dark turn

Playing a woman who trades sex and dignity in a bid to get green card status in the U.S. took its toll on Alice Eve.

"I definitely had trepidation about (the role), of course I did, and I think I definitely grieved having done it. I don't think that you escape the human process when you do something like that," said British-born Eve, who plays an Australian actor who succumbs to an immigration officer's demands for sex in Crossing Over, opening tomorrow.

The film, starring Harrison Ford, Naomi Watts and Ray Liotta, explores several storylines in its examination of the U.S. immigration system and the toll it takes on ordinary people.

Movie **feature**

For Eve, 27, the role is definitely her toughest to date after lighter fare on stage and screen, in part because sex scenes require nudity.

"Because I'm blond and chirpy, I often get cast in a certain kind of role. To play someone who has an edge and who packs a punch and who has a journey and a crisis was, I think, the thing I was most interested in about this project," Eve said.

"I don't think that you escape the human process when you do something like that."
Alice Eve on her role in Crossing Over

As an actor who travels frequently, Eve said she has become quite "resilient" at crossing international borders, right down to looking ahead upon arrival to see which immigration officer seems to be "smiling the most."

The important thing to remember about Crossing Over, Eve said, is that each storyline — a Mexican mother separated from her child, a Bangladeshi high-school student whose essay on the 9/11 terrorist bombings draws the attention of the FBI, a woman at odds culturally with her Iranian-born family, a Korean teenager's conflict with his father — are all based on true events.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Sprockets springs up again

Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children, Toronto's only film fest for the younger set, unspools April 18 to 24 with 70 films from 22 countries.

Among the movies on offer is an Australian feature for kids 11 and up, Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger, starring Oscar nominee (for Whale Rider) Keisha Castle-Hughes and Toni Collette.

Anjelica Huston, Sean Astin, Giovanni Ribisi and Ron Perlman lend their voices to Spirit of the Forest, a story of some brave gophers who band together to help save their endangered homeland. It's recommended for those ages five and up.

Since it began in 1998, Sprockets, a division of the Toronto International Film Festival Group, has offered kids and teens the opportunity to learn about the world through the filmmaker's lens.

It has made a name for itself as a cultural event for families and schools, letting young movie lovers see films that otherwise don't make it to theatres. The varied programs range from Canadian Shorts to Reel Rascals Shorts, a program especially for Sprockets' youngest audiences members: children three and over.

> **"Sprockets exposes kids to the whole big wide world outside of primarily American mainstream movies."**
> Patricia Rozema

Special guests, hands-on craft activities, storytelling and post-screening discussions add to the film program. Directors Pieter Verhoeff (The Letter for the King) and Somaratne Dissanayake (King Siri) and Bilaal Rajan are among this year's guests.

"Sprockets exposes kids to the whole big wide world outside of primarily American mainstream movies," said Canadian filmmaker Patricia Rozema in a press release. "Short of going to live in other cultures, the kind of movies they see at Sprockets might be the best way to open their eyes to glorious diversity of life on this planet."

The Sprockets School Program for Grades 1 to 12 runs from April 20 to 24, with 36 films from 14 countries and explores issues that kids face in the classroom and the world around them, from tolerance and self-confidence to climate change. The films screen at Canada Square and Sheppard Grande theatres. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ticket information

- For tickets and info call 416-968-FILM or visit sprockets.ca.
- You can also visit the box office at 2 Carlton St., West Mezzanine level (near the College subway station). Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Tickets are $6.60 for children and $10.61 for adults.
- Reel Rascals and Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase tickets are $6.60 per person (prices do not include GST, building-fund fee or service charges). TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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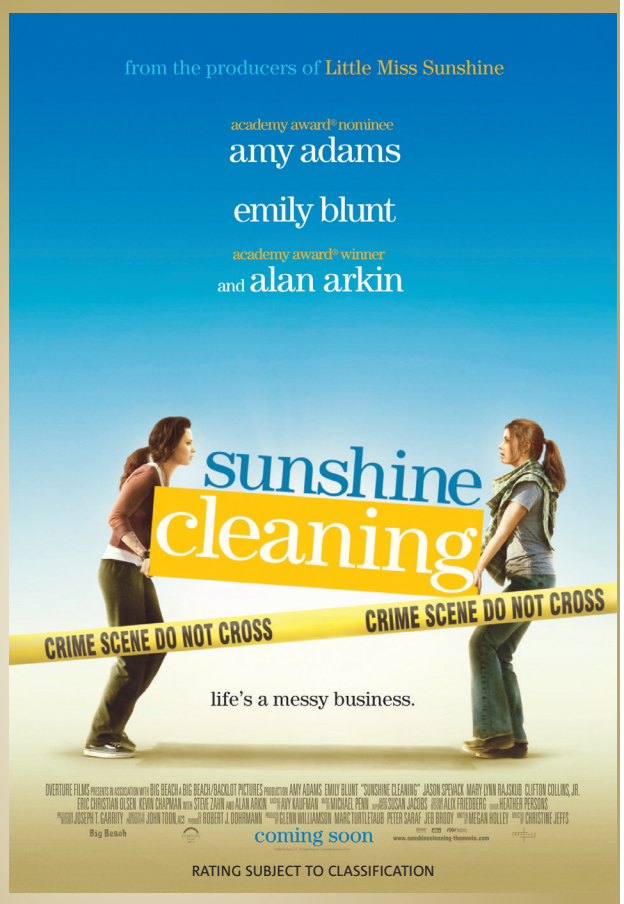

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Reality bites

Count Alex McCord among those sideswiped by the economy: the Real Housewives of New York City star was just laid off from her merchandising job. **PEOPLE.COM**

Jackson adds 15 shows in London

MUSIC Concert promoters yesterday more than doubled Jackson's summer run of concerts in London after advance tickets sold out within hours of going on sale.

AEG Live said an advance allotment of half the tickets for the July 10 shows announced last week sold out soon after going on sale. Fifteen more concerts have been added into September, and further shows are possible.

Pinkett Smith aims to expand school

SIDE PROJECTS Jada Pinkett Smith is adding another title to her resumé: schoolmaster. The 37-year-old actress-producer-musician and husband Will Smith opened the New Village Leadership Academy in Los Angeles last fall for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Now, she hopes to open a companion campus for upper grades. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: **metronews.ca/movies**

Colbert leads space race

Comic's surname tops NASA poll of choices for room in space station

Earth to Space Station Colbert: The cosmic joke may be on NASA. Comedian Stephen Colbert, who couldn't get his mock presidential campaign off the ground, is polling better by aiming higher.

He's convinced his many fans to write in his name in NASA's online public vote to name a new room to be added to the international space station.

So instead of NASA's suggested choices — Serenity, Legacy, Earthrise or Venture — the space station's new addition may wind up with the name "Colbert."

The count by mid-Tuesday had votes for the comedian just shy of 115,000 and Serenity trailing at 98,641. More than 451,000 people have voted.

The to-be-named space station room, currently called Node 3, is scheduled to be delivered to the space station near the end of this year. It will have lots of big windows and a machine that will turn astronauts' urine into drinking water.

REED SAXON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stephen Colbert wants a room of the international Space Station named "Colbert."

The name Colbert doesn't quite fit with NASA's theme, said agency spokesman John Yembrick. Other U.S. rooms in the international orbiting outpost are named Unity, Harmony and Destiny. However, the space agency hasn't made any decision and voting continues until March 20.

NASA has a legalistic out. Its contest rules say voting results "are not binding on NASA and NASA reserves the right to ultimately select a name" in keeping with its best interests.

Colbert's guest on The Colbert Report Tuesday was the straitlaced NASA official in charge of space station operations, William Gerstenmaier. After taping the show, Gerstenmaier wouldn't reveal what he told the comedian but said he had fun "in an engineer way."

Gerstenmaier said the idea behind the contest was to get people excited about space and he held out hope that NASA won't be stuck or have to ignore the vote: "We've got till the 20th of the month. ... I'm looking for folks to be creative and think about what they're doing."

And don't cry for Colbert if NASA uses its regulations to thwart him. He's already managed to get his name attached to an ice-cream flavour, a Hungarian bridge and an eagle, to name a few.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

- NASA's Name Node 3 Contest: nasa.gov
- The Colbert Report: colbertnation.com

critics' corner

Eleventh Hour

Where are Tim Gunn and Heidi Klum when you need them? Heck, Dr. Hood (Rufus Sewell) probably would settle for a little help from the Mode magazine peeps from "Ugly Betty" as he investigates a series of homicidal outbursts by people with no previous history of violence during Fashion Week in New York. Marley Shelton also stars in the new episode "Olfactus." Omar Benson Miller, Valerie Cruz and John Shea guest star. 9 PM on ACH-B

ShowBusiness: The Road to Broadway

If you have — or know someone who has — dreams of Broadway stardom, you need to watch this 2005 documentary from Dori Berinstein. She follows the fortunes of four productions from the 2004 Broadway season from the audition and rehearsal stage through the Tony Awards, where some fared better than others. It offers a fascinating peek behind the scenes and a bitter reminder that there are more misses than hits on the road to the Great White Way. 9 PM on BVO

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 3/12/09	265	353	2	TVO	We Built This City		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Blackpool Watertight alibi.		Masterworks: The Rape		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Tocantins (N)		The Office (N)	Kink in Hair	Life "Shelf Life" (N)		News
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Doc Zone "Wild Horse Redemption" (HDTV) (N)				CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty (N)		30 Rock	30 Rock	Hell's Kitchen (PA) (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		ER "Old Times" (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	*Saving Emily* (2004, Drama) Alexandra Paul, Bruce Boxleitner.				News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Météo	Nouv. mondes	*L'Année dernière à Marienbad* (1961, Drame)			Y'a pas d'âge	Volt
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Smallville "Infamous" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		Alanis Morissette: Live From London (N)		
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Survivor: Tocantins (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office (N)	30 Rock	ER "Old Times" (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:02) Private Practice (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap (N)		Eleventh Hour "Olfactus"		(10:02) Private Practice (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Hell's Kitchen (PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Great Performances "Hitman: David Foster and Friends"				Roy Orbison & Friends: Black & White Night		
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Infamous" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Geologic Journey		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		Harvard Business		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Hockeycentral	NHL Hockey Tampa Bay Lightning at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Baseball: World Classic	
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Interruption	Curling Tim Hortons Brier -- Draw 17. From the Pengrowth Saddledome in Calgary.						SportsCentre
	411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV) (N)		Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25	YTV	True Jackson	H2O, Just Add	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	In Real Life		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	*Futurama: Bender's Big Score* (2007, Comedy), John DiMaggio			
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Love It-List It	House
	570	580	29	MM	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		America's Best Dance Crew		America's Best Dance Crew		disBand	disBand	Video on Trial
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		The Beast "The Walk In"		The Beast
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Tre Metri Sopra il Cielo				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In...Love	Christina Aguilera		RuPaul's Drag Race		RuPaul's Drag Race		Listed
	575	583	38	CMT	Our Song	Flashback	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Coyote Ugly
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	*Walking Tall* ★★ (2004, Action)		
	620	523	40	BVO	Camera	Snapshot	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		*ShowBusiness: The Road to Broadway* ★★★ (2005)				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	X-Weighted "Kendra"		X-Weighted "Valencia"		X-Weighted "Gaia"		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Split Decision"		Lost Worlds "Taj Mahal"		Go Deep "Beaufighters"		NCIS "Split Decision"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	House Party	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes Attic.		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*The Man* ★★ (2005, Comedy)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Movie				The Game	The Game	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Stormworld	Watchmen	Star Trek: Voyager		Ghost Hunters		Chuck (HDTV)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Nitro Circus	After	MTV News	Cribs	Making the Band 4 (N)		The Girls of Hedsor Hall		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Family	Glutton-Punish.	Ace of Cakes
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	'Allo, 'Allo!	*The Princess Bride* ★★★ (1987, Adventure) Cary Elwes.				Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Off the Leash	Off the Leash	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Histoires-filles	Star Académie:	La Classe de 5e (SC)		Taxi 0-22 (SC)	Caméra café	TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Most Haunted Spitbank Fort.		Most Haunted Beaumaris Gaol.		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	*The Number 23*	*The Point* (2006, Drama) Jonny Wagge.			*Very Young Girls* (2007, Documentary)			(10:25) *Control* (2007)	
	305	612	306	PIX	(6:30) *Rio Bravo* ★★★ (1959, Western) John Wayne.				*Full Metal Jacket* ★★★ (1987, War) Matthew Modine.				*Barry Lyndon*

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Hogan turns to court for money
Hulk Hogan's lawyers have asked a judge to grant the former wrestler access to $300,000 of his assets that were frozen while his pending divorce is resolved. Hogan claims surgery he had last month will keep him from working for a time. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Amy willing to give it all up for 'Blakey'

RELATIONSHIP Amy Winehouse is ready to quit music to reunite with husband Blake Fielder-Civil, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer is prepared to do whatever it takes to win back ex-convict Blake — who started divorce proceedings while in prison after seeing Amy romantically linked to other men while holidaying in the Caribbean — and would even walk away from her successful singing career.

Writing on her page on social networking website Facebook, she wrote: "Amy would chuck it all in for 'im indoors."

She swiftly followed it with another message, saying: "Nothing is worth as much as Blake."

Friends of the troubled 26-year-old star replied urging her to move on from Blake, who recently moved his 17-year-old rumoured girlfriend Francesca Morralee into his London home.

One wrote: "He ain't worth it."

In a heart-rending final note, Amy said: "Where's my oblivious Blakey boy?" METRO NEWS SERVICES

Something leaking in Kelly's shower

HABITS Kelly Clarkson pees in the shower, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singer always urinates while she is washing, and insists it is not a dirty habit. Asked if she had ever been tempted to urinate while washing, she said: "Anybody who says they don't is lying." Clarkson's unusual shower routine is not the only dirty habit she admits to. The 26-year-old star always checks tissues after she has sneezed into them, because she is curious to see what is coming out of her nose. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Halliwell calls off wedding: Source

ENGAGEMENT Mere months after announcing her engagement to shipping tycoon Fabrizio Politi, Geri Halliwell is calling the whole thing off, according to the Sun. The former Spice Girl "woke up one morning last week and decided she just wasn't the marrying type," a source said. Politi and Halliwell met in December, and he proposed one week later. "Fabrizio is upset but totally respects Geri's wishes," the source says. METRO WORLD NEWS

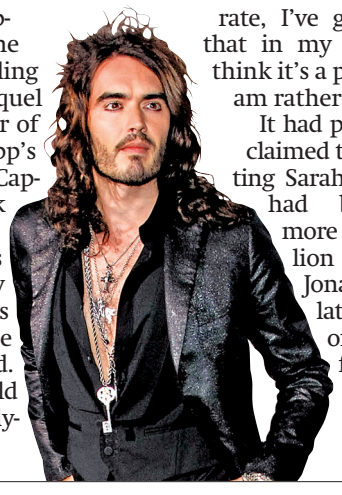
Brand's busy schedule in way of pirate role

FILM Russell Brand is "too busy" to appear in Pirates of the Caribbean 4, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The British comedian was rumoured to be in negotiations to appear in the swashbuckling movie sequel as a brother of Johnny Depp's character, Captain Jack Sparrow, but fears he may miss out as his schedule is so packed.

Brand told Access Hollywood: "There's been some talk of doing a Pirates movie. But, I've got eight other things to do including Get Him To The Greek with Judd Apatow. So I don't know if there'll be time to be a pirate, I've got enough of that in my private life. I think it's a possibility but I am rather busy."

It had previously been claimed that the Forgetting Sarah Marshall star had been offered more than $9 million to portray Jonathan in the latest instalment of the Disney franchise. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Miller dishes on girl fight in film

ACTION Sienna Miller has a "really good girl fight" in G.I. Joe: Rise of the Cobra, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Edge of Love star says she relished the chance to grapple with her co-star Rachel Nicols in the action movie, despite both actresses sustaining injuries during the physical challenge. She said: "There's a really, really good girl fight between Rachel Nichols and myself. It's like a proper, violent girl-fight scene. ... I'm clumsy, so I slipped on a rubber bullet at one point and sprained my wrist quite badly." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Diddy stands by 'friendly' gesture

FRIENDS Sean (Diddy) Combs says he was only being "a friend" when he invited Chris Brown and Rihanna to stay at his Miami home nearly three weeks after the 19-year-old singer allegedly battered his girlfriend, 21, usamagazine.com reports.

"I don't cast a judgment on anybody," Combs said on Tuesday's Ellen DeGeneres Show. "It's a dark time for them, and I'm there for support."

DeGeneres told him she didn't want any girl out there thinking it's OK to go back to a guy who abused her.

"I don't think it's right for anybody to hit anybody," Combs replied. "We know sometimes relationships get ugly ... we don't know exactly what's going on (with them)."

Added their pal, "We need to pray for them, and we need to do things to support them."

Oprah Winfrey has also reached out to the couple. She is dedicating her live talk show today to "all the Rihannas of the world."

Brown, who has been charged with two felonies and remains free on $50,000 bail, is to be arraigned April 6. If convicted, he faces anywhere from probation to four years and eight months in state prison. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan drama at club?

INCIDENT Lindsay Lohan was abandoned by girlfriend Samantha Ronson in Las Vegas, femalefirst.co.uk alleges.

The actress had planned to surprise her DJ lover with a romantic night in a hotel after she finished her set at Prive nightclub but was enraged when Ronson left the club without her.

She reportedly screamed: "I can't believe that f—king b—h left me!"

After driving from their home in Los Angeles earlier that evening, Ronson had planned to go to the club alone and was believed to be furious when Lindsay showed up at 1 a.m.

A source said: "The two started to argue and hide in the DJ booth."

Following her set, Ronson left the club at 3 a.m. and got into her Porsche. She drove alone as Lohan looked on.

Evidently outraged, Lohan jumped into her black Mercedes and sped off in the direction of her girlfriend's vehicle. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Take Five

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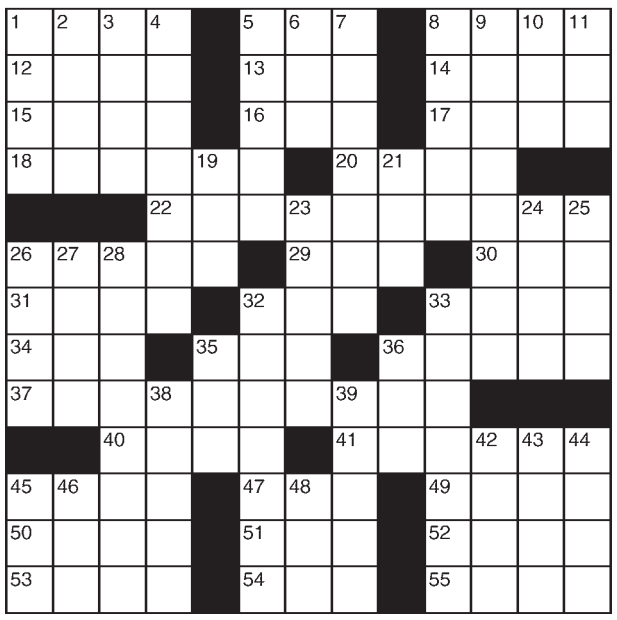


Crossword across

1 Rhyming tributes
5 — de deux
8 Satiate
12 Mentor
13 Killer whale
14 Possess
15 Hideaway
16 Harry's successor
17 Terrible fellow?
18 Football team
20 Baseball team
22 Placing first, second, or third
26 Jobs in technology?
29 Mound stat
30 Decorate Easter eggs
31 Dorothy's destination
32 Soar
33 Warmth
34 Acapulco gold?
35 Benicio — Toro
36 Language of Iran
37 Exactly right
40 The Music Man locale
41 Make bubbly
45 Isinglass
47 Back talk
49 Concept
50 Stench
51 Lamb's mama
52 Pub missile
53 Frogs' hangout
54 "Mayday!"
55 Messes up

Crossword down

1 Look lecherously
2 Two-way
3 One of HOMES
4 Last
5 Hunting dogs do it
6 Evan Almighty construction
7 Landscapes
8 Pants material
9 Pale purple
10 Eggs
11 Longing
19 Compass dir.
21 "— Little Teapot"
23 Greeting
24 Nestling hawk
25 Himalayan beast
26 "Scat!"
27 Ripped
28 Smiley in an email, e.g.
32 Cows and sows
33 Rural outing
35 Morning moisture
36 Doctor's due
38 Stockpile
39 Scruffs
42 Hebrew month
43 Yukon, for ex.
44 Corrodes
45 Swab the deck
46 Altar affirmative
48 — Jima

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

5			6		2			8
	1		9		4		3	
		4				6		
		3	2		6	8		
7								2
		9	8		1	7		
		6				2		
	7		4		5		8	
2			1		3			4

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

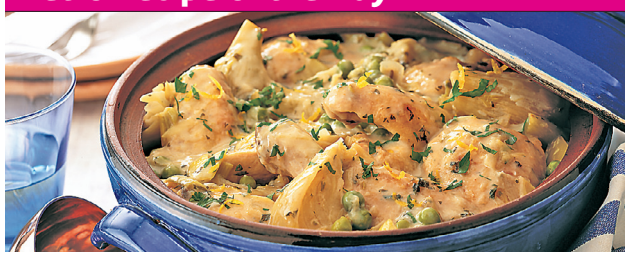
			M	A	R			S	O	D				
		G	O	B	I		A	P	H	I	D			
G	R	I	E	G		D	E	B	A	R	K			
N	O	R	T	H	C	A	R	O	L	I	N	A		
U	K	E		T	O	M	M	Y		V	O	L		
			W	O	O	S			Y	E	T	I		
		C	L	A	N	K		F	E	E	L	S		
I	R	O	N				C	E	N	T				
D	O	S		S	A	L	A	D		D	U	H		
S	W	E	E	T	C	A	R	O	L	I	N	E		
	D	I	M	I	T	Y		W	I	N	D	Y		
		T	I	L	E	S		E	R	G	O			
			R	E	D			D	A	Y				

9	6	8	4	3	7	5	2	1
7	2	5	9	8	1	3	4	6
4	1	3	2	5	6	7	8	9
1	3	6	5	7	4	2	9	8
5	4	9	8	6	2	1	7	3
2	8	7	1	9	3	4	6	5
6	7	1	3	2	8	9	5	4
8	9	4	7	1	5	6	3	2
3	5	2	6	4	9	8	1	7

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Marsala Chicken with Fennel

INGREDIENTS:
1 chicken, about 3 lbs (1.35 kg), cut into pieces
2 tbsp (25 ml) all-purpose flour
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
1 large leek, chopped
1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped parsley
1 tsp (5 ml) fennel seeds
6 tablespoons (90 ml) Marsala wine
2 cups (500 ml) chicken stock
2 medium fennel bulbs, trimmed and cut into chunks
2 cups (500 ml) shelled fresh or frozen peas
Fresh juice of 1 lemon
1 large egg, lightly beaten
Salt and black pepper
Chopped parsley
Lemon zest shreds

METHOD:
1. Remove skin from chicken pieces. Season flour with salt and pepper to taste. Dust flour over chicken.
2. Heat 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add leek, parsley, and fennel seeds and sauté 5 minutes until leek is soft, stirring frequently. Remove from pan; set aside.
3. Heat remaining 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil in frying pan. Add chicken and sauté until just golden, 6 to 7 minutes. Remove chicken and set aside. Pour in Marsala and boil until reduced to about 2 tbsp (25 ml) of glaze. Pour in stock, and return leek mixture and dark meat chicken pieces and wings to the pan. Add fennel. Cover and simmer over low heat 10 to 15 minutes. Add chicken breasts and simmer, covered, 15 minutes or until all chicken pieces are tender and juices run clear when thickest part is pierced. Add peas for last 5 minutes of cooking.
4. Transfer chicken pieces and vegetables to serving bowl; keep warm.
5. In small bowl, mix lemon juice into egg. Slowly add 4 tbsp (60 mL) hot cooking liquid to lemon and egg mixture, stirring. Slowly stir back into liquid in frying pan. Return chicken and vegetables to pan and warm through, on very low heat so sauce does not curdle. Season to taste and garnish with parsley and shreds of lemon zest.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Preferring one person over another leads to tears. You'll hear about scandalous behaviour. You'll get practical help.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A villain's laughter is unsuitable. You'll see that someone is very wrong. A split decision causes an upset.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
The cost of an agreement is too high. A dreadful drama is created by human nature. Take care with a troublemaker.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't talk about any secret sorrows. Your respect for a badmannered person is startling. Friends will fail to make contact.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone can read your mind. A mystical event won't be acceptable. A complainer forces you to make a decision.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A flippant female insists on going her own way. An uncertain person will cause conflict. Don't expect a problem to come out in the open.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You can't change an offender's ways. A compromise has you grasping for faster results. Focus on a clever person's information.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Someone isn't being clear about self-indulgent lies. Stop reproaching yourself for a bad experience. It's impossible to refuse an admired friend.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A wrongdoer reaches the breaking point. A reckless guy takes a playmate away. Speak gallantly in a pointless debate.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't get caught having second thoughts. Benevolence will inspire agreement. Heed the warnings of a common theory.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A call can make a difference. Make the first move with a shy person. Relax by avoiding a hopeless problem.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Being in charge will cause indifference. Try harder to please yourself. Someone's amusement causes distress.

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Royal Bank Plaza
Scarborough Town Centre
Sherway Gardens
Toronto Eaton Centre
Toronto Stock Exchange Tower
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall
2187 Queen St. E (The Beach)
2365 Yonge Street (north of Eglinton)
363 Front St. W (City Place)
455 Danforth Ave.
155 - 720 King St. W
5015 Yonge St.
38 - 1500 Royal York Rd.
8 - 1750 The Queensway

WEST

Burlington Mall
Mapleview Mall
Milton Crossroads Centre

Brampton
Bramalea City Centre
60 Great Lakes Dr. (inside Home Depot)
2880 Queen St. E (Hwy. 7 & Airport Rd.)
26 - 55 Mountainash Rd.
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

Mississauga
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
6535B Mississauga Rd.
2458 Dundas St. W
G16 - 3024 Hurontario St.
1A - 1370 Dundas St. E
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.
101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.

Oakville
Oakville Place
RioCan Burloak
299 Lakeshore Rd. E
18 - 2501 Third Line
D3 - 2335 Trafalgar Rd.
760 Pacific Rd.

NORTH

Maple
3 - 10019 Keele St.

Markham
Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

Richmond Hill
Hillcrest Shopping Centre
4 - 11005 Yonge St.
9301 Bathurst St.

Thornhill
Promenade Mall
7171 Yonge St.
8117 Yonge St.

Vaughan
Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
3 - 4000 Hwy. 7

Woodbridge
A7 - 4220 Steeles Ave. W

EAST

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